



AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

BOUVERIE PRESERVE

Dear Fellow Nature Lover,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer/docent at Bouverie Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch. The Docent Training Program is provided every other year and will begin in September of 2011. The class size is limited and fills up quickly, so complete and return the enclosed application as soon as possible so as not to miss this wonderful opportunity.

OUR DOCENT TRAINING PROGRAM

The purpose of the docent program at Bouverie Preserve is environmental education. Our goal is to instill a conservation ethic and love of nature in those who experience our programs and the Preserve. To this end we have developed an award winning nature education program for children in the third and fourth grades.

The Docent Training Program will immerse you in the fascinating world of natural history. The program emphasizes indigenous species and covers a broad spectrum of topics including birds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, spiders and insects, as well as flowering and non-flowering plants. Woven into the sessions are classes on ecological concepts, plant and animal communities, Native American Culture, and geology. You are given tools on “how to teach” and how to make the concepts meaningful to the children. Observation of experienced docents working in the classroom and on the trail, visits to ACR’s two other Preserves, trail techniques, and stories round out this comprehensive program.

All classes, but one, take place at the Preserve every Wednesday for 22 weeks from September 7th through February 22nd. There is a break for the holidays. Classes meet from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and are designed to give our docent trainees the knowledge and confidence to work with third and fourth graders. The training program draws from the expertise of our staff biologists, natural history and environmental education experts, and our own docents. A typical day consists of both lecture and field study. As the weeks unfold, you gain a better understanding of the interconnectedness of the cycles of life. You develop a common bond with your classmates and with the Preserve. You find yourself becoming even more committed to environmental stewardship and waiting with anticipation for the day you can begin sharing the love and knowledge of nature with school children.

DOCENT COMMITMENT

Graduates of our Docent Training Program commit to two consecutive spring and fall school programs, as well as review sessions prior to the beginning of each season. The spring school program runs from March through May and the fall program runs from October through mid November. During the hiking season each docent’s commitment averages one day per week on the trail or in the classroom. In the classroom, a team of two or three docents presents a slide program and uses a kit of unique hands-on material to prepare the children with basic concepts before their trip to the Preserve. At the Preserve, each docent leads a group of about six children on a hike, accompanied by one adult chaperone.

Audubon Canyon Ranch • Bouverie Preserve

P.O. Box 1195 • Glen Ellen • CA • 95442

Phone 707-938-4554 • Fax 707-938-8758 • Website www.egret.org • E-mail bouverie@egret.org



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FEE

A fee of \$120 (may vary slightly) is required for participation in the Docent Training Program. Tuition covers the total cost of training including guest speakers, informational handouts, and other training materials. Scholarships are available.

ORIENTATION INTERVIEWS

Prospective trainees are required to attend an orientation. If you turn in an application, you will be contacted about the orientation dates as soon as they are scheduled.

QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible for the Docent Training Program, you must be a minimum of 18 years of age, physically capable of full participation in the school education program, and have a sincere interest in communicating a knowledge and appreciation of nature to children.

APPLICATIONS

Included with this letter is an application for you to fill out, sign and return.

Your docent application information will be:

- 1] used to help us determine if this volunteer opportunity is a good fit for you and ACR,
- 2] used to help introduce you to the other new docents in the training class,
- 3] published in our docent newsletter so other active docents can get to know you,
- 4] may be used during training and/or graduation celebrations etc...

Again thank you for your interest. Feel free to contact the Bouverie office at (707)938-4554 or at bouverie@egret.org with any questions regarding training or other events.

Sincerely,

Nancy Trbovich
Administrative Manager
Bouverie Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch



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Docent Application

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Bouverie Preserve docent! After you have answered each of the questions, please return this form to the address given on the back. Upon receipt of this application, you will be invited to an on-site introduction to the Bouverie Preserve Program along with an interview.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone:(home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____

E-mail: _____ Fax: _____

- 1. As a Bouverie docent you will be presenting the Environmental Educational program to children ages 8-10 years old in the classroom and hiking on trails. The mission of Audubon Canyon Ranch at the Bouverie Preserve includes educating children and adults about the natural environment and the need to protect it through the experience and enjoyment of the preserve.**

Are you committed to working with this age group? Yes _____ No _____

How have you worked with children in the past? *(A lack of prior experience with children does not jeopardize your application)*

- 2. Training classes meet at Bouverie Preserve every Wednesday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. from September through February with a break for the holidays. You are expected to attend all 22* sessions. Following graduation from the training program, you are required to give a two-year commitment to the Preserve to retain the rights and privileges of a Bouverie Docent. This commitment requires one hike or classroom visit per week during March, April, May, October and November for 2 years after graduation. Most docents choose to stay active long after the required commitment.**

Please list any conflict you may have with these expectations including presenting the educational program in the classroom or hiking on the trails: **A Training Committee Chairperson will contact you to discuss any concerns or conflicts indicated.*

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Docent Application

3. Briefly describe pertinent professional and/or volunteer experience. Please list any specific skills and interests you have in natural history and the environment.

4. How did you hear about our docent training?

Newspaper: _____ Friend: _____ Docent: _____ Other: _____

(Specifics help our outreach efforts.)

5. I am aware of the commitment involved in becoming a Bouverie Docent (as stated in this document). I am willing and able to fully participate in both the docent training and the two year commitment to the classroom and hiking program that follows. I am at least 18 years old.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

*As an organization we value the safety of children in our care,
therefore all individuals who work with children are, at ACR's sole and exclusive discretion,
subject to a criminal background check.*

Mail form to: Bouverie Preserve of ACR
P.O. Box 1195
Glen Ellen, CA 95442

Fax form to: (707) 938-8758

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