

Johnson County Conservation VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

May 2023

We need your help for the following volunteer positions and events!

Conservation Education Center Host

Volunteer Hosts are vital in keeping the CEC in Kent Park open to visitors on summer weekends. Hosts serve as friendly ambassadors greeting visitors, answering nature- and JCC-related questions when able. We are seeking volunteers for Saturdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Hosts unlock the CEC at 10:00 a.m. and lock up at 2:00 p.m. Hosts can serve one day or many, every bit helps! Contact: kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Bird Feeder Weekend Filler

Volunteers help keep the feeders at Kent Park's Bird Blind full on the weekends, with different volunteers filling different weekend 'slots', such as the second weekend, for example.. We currently have a couple openings for different weekends. This task takes around 30 minutes per month, and is great motivation to get you out to the park! Contact: kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Great Iowa River Race (GIRR) Event Help

GIRR is a 9-mile paddle race on the Iowa River. Proceeds go to JCC's environmental education program, through the Friends of Johnson County Conservation. We are seeking volunteers to help with race check-in, timing, race photographer, rental distribution, and boat retrieval at the finish line. The race is June 10. Time commitment of positions varies from 1-3 hours. Contact: kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Fishing Program Aid and/or Pole Repair Help We serve hundreds of youth (and adults!) attend our fishing programs each summer and fall. At these events, we would love help from folks with experience fishing to aid in baiting hooks, untangling line, unhooking fish, etc. We also spend a lot of time after events fixing and cleaning poles and would love volunteer aid here too! Volunteers would be contacted and notified in advance of programs or fishing pole repair days and could attend as schedules allow. Contact: mtrana@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Trail Steward Two volunteer trail stewards are needed to help manage the trail system at Cangleska Wakan. In this role, the trail steward would commit to hiking a two-mile portion of the four-mile trail network every two weeks, and while hiking would use hand clippers to trim vegetation that is reaching into the trail corridor, namely viney wild rose stems. Volunteers would also move fallen sticks or small branches, but would not be responsible for clearing larger fallen logs. Any person who is able to comfortably hike would be physically capable of this volunteer role. Contact: kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Flip for more volunteer needs on the backside.

<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation>





Crochet Project Love to crochet? Then we've got a fun project for you: crocheted caterpillars! To help teach about pollinators, we are seeking volunteers to donate their time (and if possible, materials), to crochet realistic caterpillar replicas. We will provide patterns. Contact: fowen@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Bird Banding at Kent Park

Johnson County Conservation partners with federally permitted banders to capture and band small birds at Kent Park. We support this effort because it's an amazing tool for data on bird populations using Kent Park. Data contributes to an international database that makes it possible to track bird populations across north America and beyond. If you love birds and you'd like to contribute in a meaningful way to their conservation this is the work for you! We band twice weekly in spring and fall and periodically throughout the summer and winter as weather allows. This work is heavily dependent on dedicated volunteers. If not for volunteers it would not be possible. Contact: mtrana@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP)

This will be the fourth year JCC has been involved with this national citizen science program. Volunteers visit the study site (located at Cedar River Crossing) throughout the summer to complete various activities required by this program to monitor monarch butterflies. Activities include identifying blooming plants and milkweed, searching for monarch eggs and caterpillars, looking for adult butterflies, and even raising one or two caterpillars at home. We go to the site on various Wednesday mornings for 2-4 hours, but volunteers do not need to come every time, or participate in every activity. Contact: fowen@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

This newsletter will come out on an as-needed basis. To subscribe to the email-list for this newsletter, click on or scan the QR code to the right.



Banner photo: Two Horse Farm, credit: Erin Melloy

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