Natural History Museum of Utah Volunteer Program
Citizen Science Volunteer Position

**NHMU Mission:** The Natural History Museum of Utah illuminates the natural world and the place of humans within it. Citizen Science volunteers play a critical role in helping members of the public develop nature observation skills and nurture personal connections to the natural world; they also help refine community-collected data about the natural world for use by scientists globally.

**Position Summary:** Citizen Science volunteers are a hugely important factor in providing NHMU family nature event participants with exceptional and memorable experiences with nature and science. Trained in the iNaturalist platform, they bring the natural world to life, helping to create for participants lasting impressions of both the nature around them and their role as community scientists. They also do integral work to connect the local biodiversity data collected by NHMU community members with scientists around the world. Through this volunteer engagement, an individual has the unique opportunity to get their foot in the door at NHMU, to engage curious minds with the thrill of discovery, and to impact scientific research.

Specifically, Citizen Science volunteers will champion NHMU Citizen Science activities by either or both of the following:

1. **Engaging with participants during NHMU’s family nature events, including Salt Lake City Neighborhood Naturalists (SLCNN) and other public bioblitz/data collection events.** During these events, often held at local urban spaces, volunteers will help participants in observing and identifying the living organisms they encounter, and engage in conversations with individuals or small groups about what they observe. Volunteers will model good observation skills, help participants use field guides, and share their enthusiasm for nature.

2. **Working online on their own device to categorize the plants and animals in photographs taken by participants in NHMU family nature events.** Volunteers will use field guides to assist with the digital identification process of unique and important species observed during data collection events. If appropriate, volunteers may provide written feedback to the original community data observer.

**Other Benefits:** Volunteers at the Natural History Museum of Utah expand their knowledge of the natural world through specialized trainings, enjoy behind-the-scenes access, and interact with the Museum’s research staff. They broaden their social circle by making connections with fellow volunteers, Museum staff, and Museum guests; they contribute to scientific research, and make an impact in increasing scientific literacy and awareness in the local community, and beyond. This is a particularly great role for anyone pursuing a career in science, education, or nonprofit work. This role ensures a front-row seat to the innerworkings of a world-class Museum, and a great opportunity for career connections and mentoring! In addition, the Museum offers the following benefits:

- Volunteer t-shirt and nametag
- Free admission into the museum
- Two free guest passes for every 25 hours of service
- Museum membership discount
- Discount at Museum Store and Café
- Use of the volunteer lounge
- Continuing Education programs, including lectures and tours
- Professional development opportunities
- Invitation to social and recognition events
Department: External Relations
Supervisor: Ellen Eiriksson, Citizen Science Program Coordinator

Skills/Abilities:
- Able to identify local plants or animals, using a field guide as needed (or desire to develop those skills; prior knowledge is helpful, but not necessary)
- Comfortable with technology and working online; willing to learn how to use the iNaturalist platform
- Flexible; self-directed; problem-solver
- If volunteering at family nature events:
  - Enjoy engaging in conversations with small groups
  - Capable of standing and walking on uneven surfaces in natural settings for extended periods
  - Ability to carry heavy equipment, preferred
- If volunteering to do digital identifications:
  - Desire to build knowledge of basic taxonomy – the system by which living organisms are classified. (Prior knowledge is helpful but not necessary)

Training Required: All volunteers are required to complete an Online Volunteer Orientation, which should take about 1 hour to complete from home, and a 75-minute On-Site Museum Orientation. Additionally, Citizen Science volunteers are required to attend one training session on the iNaturalist identification system and taxonomy basics.

Training Schedule:
Online Volunteer Orientation, to be completed at home
On-Site Museum Orientation, 75 minutes, RSVP required:
- Offered weekly, to be scheduled after completion of Online Volunteer Orientation
iNaturalist Orientation Training, 2 hours:
- TBD; Will attempt to schedule training based on availability of volunteers

Shifts Available:
NHMU Family Nature Events: We are currently determining the 2020 SLCNN schedule. We anticipate six-eight bioblitzes between April and November at local urban open spaces. Events will likely be on Saturday mornings and weekday evenings and run for three to four hours.

iNaturalist Identifications: Work on iNaturalist identifications can be done on your own schedule. However, it will be particularly important in the days immediately following an NHMU family nature event. In addition to the SLCNN program, we’ll be hosting an intensive iNaturalist effort in April/Early May.

Time Commitment:
Citizen Science volunteers will work a minimum of three NHMU family nature events between April and November 2020, and/or spend at least 2 hours categorizing iNaturalist photos after each event, plus an additional four hours in April, following the City Nature Challenge. Additional time spent making identifications throughout the year is encouraged and will be much appreciated.

Age Requirement: 18 years or older
Background checks are required for all volunteers.

Participants 18 and older, click here to apply!
Thank you for your interest in the Natural History Museum of Utah!