



## Information for Teen Volunteers

### Mississippi Museum of Natural Science

#### **To apply to be a teen volunteer at MMNS:**

- 1) Complete all parts of the youth volunteer application and return to the volunteer coordinator. Applicants must be at least 13 years old.
- 2) When your references (which should be submitted separately by the people referring you) and your completed application are received, you may be contacted to schedule an interview, which you will be required to attend with a parent.
- 3) If you are selected, after your interview you will be notified promptly and you will then need to attend a volunteer orientation meeting. After orientation, you are officially a Museum volunteer and may begin to work during scheduled teen service opportunity times.

(Applications are available online at [www.mdwfp.com/museum](http://www.mdwfp.com/museum). Volunteer coordinator, TJ Tippit, can be reached at [Thomas.tippit@mmns.ms.gov](mailto:Thomas.tippit@mmns.ms.gov) or 601-576-6000.)

#### **What opportunities are available for teen volunteers?**

##### **During June and July:**

Teen volunteers may (1) request to work as camp counselors during Camp WILD **and/or** (2) volunteer during our “Fun Friday” events. Other events may also be scheduled and will be advertised to current volunteers.

##### **From August-May:**

During the school year, all teen volunteers have the opportunity at least once monthly to earn 3 service hours by working at the Museum. During months including school holidays or Museum special events, teens will be have the chance to earn more hours through service. All dates are listed on a calendar distributed quarterly and are identified as being specifically for teen volunteers, or for all volunteers.

A typical service opportunity will focus on supporting the work of a Museum staff member in education, research, or collections, to learn more about careers relating to natural science and conservation—while also serving the Museum’s mission.

**There are no minimum service hour requirements for volunteers.** However, each fall and spring, a special fieldwork opportunity is offered for those teens who have earned 30 hours by the time of the trip.

### **SUMMER CAMP INFO for teen volunteers**

Teens who want to help at camp and have done a great job as camp counselors at MMNS in the past will have first choice of camp sessions, and may volunteer at as many sessions as they would like.

New teen volunteers or those who have not volunteered at camp in the past may request to volunteer at summer camp, with consideration given to past performance or past experience working with children. We will notify you which sessions you are confirmed to help with as soon as possible after you make your request.

### **FUN FRIDAY INFO for teen volunteers**

“Fun Friday” happens every Friday morning in June and July. “Fun Friday” is a time for families and groups to come to the Museum and tour our exhibits, while also enjoying several activity stations set up only during this time. Each week the stations will follow a theme such as “mammals” or other topics in natural science. Each week there will be a craft station or two, an investigative/experiment station, a game, and often a live animal encounter.

Under the direct supervision of an education staff member and the volunteer coordinator, teen volunteers work together to stage activities, set up and break down stations, and interact effectively with staff and visitors to help create a fun learning experience!