

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Rio Grande Nature Center State Park Looking for New Volunteers

Albuquerque, NM –Rio Grande Nature Center State Park (RGNC) is recruiting new volunteers for a variety of positions and is holding volunteer trainings starting on January 17, 2015. From greeting visitors, to guiding bird walks to helping out on special events, there is something for every type of volunteer at this park.

“I encourage people who are enthusiastic about new learning opportunities and preservation of the Rio Grande and the bosque to volunteer with us,” said RGNC Superintendent Beth Dillingham. “Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, have unique park experiences, and teach generations of visitors about these special resources.”

Located on the Rio Grande flyway, this park offers excellent birdwatching opportunities throughout the year. There are indoor and outdoor wildlife viewing areas overlooking ponds, and trail access to the Rio Grande. Educational programs and special events are highlights at this park.

More than 280,000 visitors explored RGNC in 2014. Volunteers are a vital to ensuring outstanding visitor experiences at this park. Volunteer job types now available are:

- Bird Walk Guide
- Park Greeters
- Interpretive Naturalists
- Nature Shop Attendants
- Phone Committee Volunteers
- Special Event Volunteers
- Trail Watch Volunteers
- Outreach Interpreters

New volunteers can complete required, informative training at the park over the course of seven consecutive Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. **beginning January 17** and ending February 28, 2015.

Volunteers are required to complete a volunteer application and become members of the Friends of the RGNC. Class materials are \$15 for all training participants. There is an annual Friends of the RGNC membership of \$15-\$30 and applications can be found at <http://www.rgnc.org/Membership.pdf>. Required volunteer reading, *A Field Guide to the Plants & Animals of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque*, can be purchased in the RGNC Nature Shop for \$24.95.

Please register in advance for the training and request a volunteer application. Contact the Friends of the RGNC Volunteer Coordinator at 505-344-7240 or send an email to friends@rgnc.org. Contact the park at 505-344-7240 for other questions.

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Conditions are Right for Adventure at Your New Mexico State Parks!

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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