

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Make a Difference at Rio Grande Nature State Park – Volunteer!

Albuquerque, NM - Imagine watching the face of a child as he or she experiences their first visit to the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park. You can be a part of this rewarding interaction as a volunteer educator at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park. The only prerequisites are that you are interested in learning about the natural world, enjoy talking to people, and are 18 years of age or older.

Volunteers may lead small groups of students or adults on tours, work in the gift shop, greet visitors at the front desk, work on habitat restoration projects and much more.

This year's Volunteer Training at Rio Grande Nature Center State Park will be held on seven (7) consecutive Saturday's beginning on January 30th and continuing through March 12th. Each session begins at 9 a.m. and runs until 2:30 p.m., so bring a sack lunch. You will learn about every aspect of the Rio Grande Nature Center including the bosque ecosystem, and the Park's mission.

The Rio Grande Nature Center State Park was established in 1982 through the efforts of the local community. Serving over 200,000 visitors a year, the park provides quality educational programs and events about the Rio Grande and surrounding riparian forest.

Thousands of school children come to the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park each year to learn about birds, insects, pollinators and wildlife and get their hands wet as they experience the aquatic world of the Discovery Pond.

One of the unique features of the park is the visitor center, constructed by internationally renowned architect Antoine Predock. The visitor center has interactive interpretive exhibits and a glass enclosed viewing room overlooking a pond that attracts hundreds of waterfowl, turtles and dragonflies.

Please request a Volunteer Application by calling the Volunteer Coordinator at 505-344-7240 or send an email to friends@rgnc.org by Wednesday, January 27th.

Volunteers are required to complete a volunteer application, become members of the Friends of the RGNC State Park, supplied class materials (\$15) and have access to the required reading: *A Field Guide to the Plants & Animals of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque* (available for purchase in the Nature Shop for \$24.95).



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