

Donating Your Time at Five Rivers

Friends of Five Rivers provides many kinds of support to the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center.

Many of the people you see working at the Center are Friends' volunteers. For example, you may see:

- ❖ A Friend teaching a third-grade class near Wood Duck Marsh
- ❖ A Friend staffing the reception desk at the Center
- ❖ A group of Friends working in the Wildlife Garden
- ❖ Friends filing orders at the Annual Birdseed Sale
- ❖ Friends helping with refreshments at the annual Fall Festival.

These are just a sampling of the ways that people with a few hours to give can help Five Rivers.

We are currently looking for volunteers in the following areas.

Board Member: Support and uphold the mission and values of the Friends of Five Rivers. Contribute an average of 6 hours monthly. Attend board meetings (third Wednesday of most months) and participate in at least one Board Committee. Maintain an annual membership in the Friends of Five Rivers.

Committee Member: Support and uphold the mission of the committee and the Friends of Five Rivers. Contribute an average of 4 hours monthly. Attend scheduled committee meetings. Maintain an annual membership in the Friends of Five Rivers.

Volunteer Instructor: Teach each Pre-K through 8th grade students on weekdays throughout the school year. Five Rivers provides your training—bring a love of the outdoors and a desire to work with children on enjoyable, hands-on activities. **For training dates, send an email to gsp5Rivers@outlook.com.**

Wildlife Gardener: Design and maintain the Center's Wildlife and Water Gardens. All levels of skill are welcome. Tools are provided. Gardeners meet monthly from February to April and twice a month from May to September.

Greeter: Help staff the Center reception desk and bookstore on weekends and Tuesdays.

Hospitality Volunteer: Help set up, serve and clean up at Friends' events.

Special Events Volunteer: Help with special, annual functions such as the Annual Fall Festival including the Bake Sale (September) and the Annual Birdseed Sale (October).

Office Workers: Assist staff with clerical duties including database entry, copying, filing and management of the bookstore.

For further information, please call the Friends of Five Rivers Executive Director, Joanne Macklin at (518)475-0295, email FriendsFiveRivers@outlook.com or visit us at www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org.

Friends of Five Rivers (FFR) Committees Seeking Volunteers

Accessible Trail/Land Protection:

Committee members regularly walk the Accessible Trail and other trails, and note any problems or areas needing attention. Members also seek to protect and conserve the lands bordering the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center.

Birdseed Sale:

Committee members select a vendor and plan and participate in the sale, our major annual fundraising event.

Fund Development:

The committee works with FFR's Executive Director on marketing/communication plans, grants research, and other fundraising opportunities and initiatives.

Fall Festival:

The committee works with DEC staff to plan, coordinate and participate in the Annual Fall Festival.

Greeter Coordination & Recruitment:

Members assist Chairperson in recruiting, training, and scheduling volunteer greeters at the Visitor Center.

Hospitality:

The committee makes plans and decides on the budget needs for refreshments at regular and special events sponsored by FFR. Members also serve as hosts at these events.

Membership:

This committee plans membership drives and updates membership brochures. The committee obtains a group of volunteers who meet monthly to mail out renewal notices and thank you letters and to prepare the mailings of *Rivers Ramblings* and other membership mailings.

Public Relations:

Committee members are responsible for handling publicity for all major events in which FFR participates. The committee is also responsible for initiating press releases and soliciting write ups for ongoing FFR activities.

Wildlife Gardeners:

This committee, in cooperation with the Center Director, regularly assesses maintenance and planting needs of the Wildlife Garden and makes adjustments as needed. The Committee prepares work schedules and contacts volunteer gardeners.

Guided School Program Planning:

The committee works with staff on planning the marketing of the program to schools and recruiting volunteer instructors. Members work with staff and DEC on the development of new or improved lessons.

Citizen Science:

This new committee is responsible for raising awareness about science that is currently happening at Five Rivers, and promoting an increase in science, especially citizen science, at Five Rivers. Members build and maintain an inventory that describes current and past scientific projects involving Five Rivers, and seek to encourage future projects. They explore ways to educate the public about ongoing science at Five Rivers.