



Volunteering with **Lehigh Gap Nature Center**

Education Team



Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC) is seeking **Education Team volunteers** to support school field trips and public outreach activities. Do you enjoy sharing your love of nature, science, or history with others? As an Education Team volunteer, you will have the opportunity to teach and inspire people of all ages!

Education Team Role at a Glance:

Responsible for: Leading or assisting with field trip activities; supporting public outreach events at LGNC; representing LGNC at offsite tabling events

Report to: Riley Davenport, Education & Outreach Coordinator
(riley.davenport@lgnc.org | 610-760-8889)

Time Commitment: 1-8 hour programs/events, primarily spring through fall

About LGNC

Nestled within the Kittatinny Ridge alongside the Lehigh River, Lehigh Gap Nature Center is a member-supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit environmental education center and wildlife refuge. LGNC is the *first and only nature center in the U.S. created from a federal Superfund site*. When LGNC was founded in 2002, much of the mountainside in our surrounding area was barren and lifeless, scarred by decades of industrial pollution. LGNC's efforts to revegetate several hundred acres of this former 'moonscape' have not only successfully restored life to the mountain, but they have also established a community resource that is now enjoyed by thousands of visitors annually. Today, the restored site is home to a 756-acre wildlife refuge featuring hundreds of native species, 13 miles of trails, and endless opportunities for learning, ecological research, and outdoor recreation. Visit lgnc.org to learn more.

Volunteering with the Education Team

From sharing the story of our ecological restoration to connecting people with nature and fostering environmental stewardship, LGNC's education and outreach initiatives lie at the heart of our mission. LGNC currently serves over 10,000 people per year through hundreds of school and public programs. This level of activity would not be possible without our Education Team volunteers.

The Education Team is most directly involved with school field trips and events. Volunteers have opportunities to help in both a leadership and a supporting role. Although many members of the Education Team have a background in education, all we require is a passion for nature and a willingness to pass it on to others.

LGNC's environmental education programs have been designed by our Education Team and staff in direct response to the needs and interests of those we serve. Outreach goals include, but are not limited to, promoting ecological literacy, building connections to our local history and ecology, preparing students for state standardized science tests, and nurturing conservation leadership. LGNC is committed to making environmental education accessible for all and works actively to remove financial, transportation, and other barriers that might otherwise limit one's ability to learn and explore in nature.

Responsibilities of the Education Team

Education Team volunteers are responsible for the following in support of LGNC's education and outreach initiatives:

- Leading or assisting with educational field trip activities, including guided hikes, demonstrations, and interactive lessons, for students in grades pre-K through college
- Planning activities and displays for LGNC's public outreach events, such as Migration Fest
- Assisting with event setup
- Representing LGNC at offsite tabling events held by partner organizations; includes setting up an informational table and displays, sharing LGNC's story and mission, distributing handouts, and recruiting members and volunteers

Education Team Leadership

The Education Team volunteer group is coordinated by LGNC's Education & Outreach Coordinator, Riley Davenport. Education Team volunteers should contact Riley directly at 610-760-8889 or riley.davenport@lgnc.org with any questions or concerns.

Training and Orientation

Prior to volunteering, Education Team volunteers should meet with Riley Davenport to discuss the program schedule and other logistics. From there, volunteers should shadow and assist other LGNC educators as much as needed prior to volunteering independently. All LGNC lesson plans are available electronically for volunteers to reference remotely.

A group planning meeting is held at least once per year to review the program schedule and lesson plans and to address questions or concerns.

Time Commitment

The Education Team is most active spring through fall. Education Team volunteers may volunteer as often or as little as they are available.

In general, weekday school field trips require 2-4 volunteer hours per field trip date. The hourly commitment for public outreach support, such as event planning and prep, is much more flexible and depends upon a volunteer's level of involvement. Weekday and weekend tabling events generally require 3-4 hour volunteer shifts.

Clearances

In accordance with Pennsylvania Act 153 (Child Protective Services Law), all LGNC volunteers must complete free criminal background checks prior to volunteering.