



BERKS NATURE

Ambassador Program Packet

Berks Nature is offering a program to obtain people dedicated to preserving nature. The ambassador program will give these dedicated people a place to learn more about nature, develop new skills, and use what they learn to enhance and preserve the environment around them.



Berks Nature Ambassador Program Details

Berks Nature is recruiting a dedicated group of volunteers to be trained as “**Berks Nature Ambassadors**”. *What does this mean?* It means that you will receive basic training related to all of the good conservation work that we do. Upon completion of your training, you will officially become a volunteer Berks Nature Ambassador. Our Ambassadors will be our trained volunteers that can help train others, lead projects, answer questions, and simply help enhance and protect the environment!

First, there is a simple application process and fee schedule. **APPLICATION ARE DUE BY MARCH 1st!** Prior to applying please review the training schedule below and make sure you are able to commit to the April 2nd introduction, plus at least 4 of the trainings. If you cannot attend the required but are still interested, contact us, and we might be able to work around it. There is a \$100 fee for members/\$135 for non-members to participate in this training program. At the end of the training, our new Berks Nature Ambassadors will receive a certificate, an official Berks Nature Ambassador vest, an abundance of interesting knowledge of our natural world, and become part of the Berks Nature family.

Next there are five special training opportunities for interested Ambassadors to learn about our organization and practical conservation skills. In order to become an official Berks Nature Ambassador, attendance at 4 out of 5 training sessions is required. The Welcome & Introduction Night on April 2nd is designed for all interested applicants. Also note, those interested in focusing their Ambassador skills on water quality and testing are required to attend the two-day Hydrology training listed on the schedule. This hydrology training follows scientific GLOBE protocols and is excellent! See the full training schedule below.

Finally the state requires that anybody who has regular contact with children obtain 3 clearances to ensure the safety of our children. Since a Berks Nature Ambassador may have contact with children, all 3 clearances that are required to work with children must be submitted. They are free since this is a volunteer position, unless you have not lived in PA for more the 10 years. If you have not lived in Pennsylvania for the past ten (10) years, then you will need to obtain the more extensive FBI background and fingerprint clearances at a minimal cost. If you hold the clearances from your job, then simply send a copy with your application. If you need help or have questions about the clearances, contact Michael Griffith at either michael.griffith@berksnature.org or 610-372-4992 Ext. 108.

Complete the first 2 clearances online and either of the applicable FBI clearance listed as items 3 and 4.

1. Child abuse clearances <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home> When filling out the application make sure you check, “Volunteer Having Contact with Children”, so there is no charge and the results take about 5 days to show up online.
2. PA State Police (PSP) Criminal History Report: <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp> Click the volunteer button and results are instant.
3. FBI waiver if you have lived in PA for at least 10 years (will be attached to the end of the document).
<http://www.bpsd.org/Downloads/VOLUNTEER%20REQUEST%20FOR%20WAIVER%20OF8.pdf>
4. FBI background and fingerprinting if you have **not** lived in PA for the past 10 years.



**Berks Nature Ambassador
Volunteer Application**

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

_____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Birth Date: _____

Current Employer: _____

Work Phone: _____ May we call you at work? Yes _____ No _____

Position: _____ Full-Time: _____ Part-Time: _____

EDUCATION (highest completed)

High school: 9 10 11 12 College: 1 2 3 4 Graduate: 1 2 3 4

Major: _____

Degree/ Specialization: _____

Are you presently enrolled in school? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, name of school and course of study: _____

Languages spoken: _____

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE/INTERESTS

Volunteer Experience:

Organization(s): _____ Title: _____

Duties: _____

If more than one please enter information on back of form.

List special interests and training: _____

Do you have any impairment (physical, mental, or medical) that would interfere with your ability to perform volunteer duties for which you have applied?



How did you become aware of Berks Nature? _____

What do you feel are the strengths that you will bring to this program?

What do you feel are your primary concerns about becoming a volunteer in this program?

What does the environment and nature mean to you?

AREA OF INTEREST

- Trail Maintenance
- Invasive Species Control
- Wherever Needed
- Water Monitoring
- Land Stewardship
- Other _____

Please check the skills listed below so that we may orient our workdays to fit the skills of our volunteers:

- Pruning Shear Use
- Sledge Hammer
- Painting
- Other useful trail related skills?
- Pruning Saw Use
- Lawn Mower
- Administrative
- Shovel
- Weed Wacker
- Water Testing

Please check the tools you are willing to bring to a workday (only you would be operating them)

- Pick-up Truck
- Chipper Shredder
- Mower
- Wheelbarrow
- Weed Wacker
- Shovel



Gloves Waders Chainsaw
 Other useful related tools?

AVAILABILITY

Day	Morning Time	Afternoon Time	Evening Time
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

AFFIRMATION AND RELEASE

I, _____, hereby affirm that all of the answers provided on my volunteer application are true. I hereby authorize Berks Nature to investigate my background to determine my fitness as a potential volunteer.

I understand that the information requested in this application will be used only for the purpose of determining suitability as a Berks Nature volunteer. Further, I understand that after the successful completion of my training, I will be expected to serve a minimum of 30 hours a year and report all my time correctly. If unforeseen circumstances prevent me from fulfilling this obligation, I will discuss the limitations with the program manager in a timely fashion.

Name (please print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Typing your name in any signature box will represent your actual signature!

Please return completed application to: Berks Nature
 575 Saint Bernardine St
 Reading, PA 19607
Michael.griffith@berksnature.org



AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

As a participant in volunteer work for Berks Nature (BN), the undersigned hereby releases and agrees to hold Berks Nature harmless, its agents, employees, officers and successors from all liability, claims, actions, demands and judgments which I, the undersigned, may have against Berks Nature or its successors from all personal injuries, known or unknown or injuries to other persons and property caused by or arising out of any action I might take relating to activities while participating in volunteer work for the BN. I recognize there are inherent dangers in any outdoor activity involving tools, equipment and/or cooperative work with others, and agree to inform myself of these dangers and take reasonable precautions to avoid being harmed by them. I understand that this Release shall bind the members of my family and spouse, if I am alive, as well as my estate, family, heirs, administrators, personal representatives or assignees, if I am deceased, and shall be deemed as a "Release, Waiver, Discharge and Covenant" not to sue Berks Nature.

Name of Participant (please print)

of Participant

Date

Emergency Contact Name

Emergency Contact Number

As a leader of the group (Watershed groups, club, association, corporation, etc.) of which the participant is a member, I agree s/he is a member in good standing, has volunteered to be a participant in project(s) sponsored by BN and has been properly trained to safely participate in said project(s). On behalf of my group, I join in the above release and agree to use all reasonable caution and procedures to ensure the safety of the participant during volunteer work involving BN projects.

Leader's Name

Leader's

Photo Waiver

I hereby give my permission for my photograph to be taken during BN activities and for Berks Nature to use my photographic image in commercial or noncommercial publicity for the event, for Berks Nature and its activities.



**VOLUNTEER REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF
FBI – FEDERAL CRIMINAL HISTORY FINGERPRINT RECORD CHECK**

(If you qualify for this waiver, this form must be completed and turned into Berks Nature when submitting the other two PA clearances.)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct:

1. I have been a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during **the entirety of the previous ten-year period** from the date of this document;
2. I have NEVER been named the perpetrator of a founded report of child abuse;
3. I have **NEVER** been convicted of one or more of the following types of offenses, including the attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to commit any of the following offenses:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Criminal homicide b. Aggravated assault c. Stalking d. Kidnapping Restraint f. Rape g. Statutory sexual assault assault i. Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse k. Indecent assault 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> l. Indecent exposure m. Incest n. Concealing the death of a child o. Endangering the welfare of a child e. Unlawful p. Dealing in infant children q. Prostitution and related offenses r. Crimes related to obscene and other h. Sexual sexual materials and performances s. Corruption of minors t. Sexual abuse of children
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4. Within a 5-year period immediately preceding the date of this document, I have not been convicted of a felony offense under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act; AND
5. I have not been convicted of an offense similar in nature to those crimes listed under paragraphs 2, 3, or 4 above under the laws or former laws of the United States or one of its territories or possessions, another state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or a foreign nation, or under a former Pennsylvania law.

I understand that statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date

Print Name