



TYLER ARBORETUM BLUEBIRD BOX MONITOR VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

PURPOSE OF SERVICE: Tyler's Bluebird box monitoring began in 1970 when concerned members were interested in helping the declining bluebird population. The lack of nesting sites prompted the installation of bluebird boxes on Tyler's property, sparking the beginning of the monitoring program. The program continues with volunteers monitoring the numbers of bluebirds that nest, hatch, and fledge from Tyler Arboretum's approximately forty nest boxes. Tyler's records are submitted to the Pennsylvania Chapter of the North American Bluebird Society. Volunteers monitor the boxes regularly from April to August, with some monitoring into September.

QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS:

- Available to volunteer weekly to observe assigned nest boxes and maintain a record of findings.
- Be in good health and physically able to walk or hike to assigned nest boxes, stand in place, bend, and kneel.
- Able to safely work in mowed areas that may contain poison ivy and where occasional exposure is unavoidable. Ticks may also be present.

TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS: Open assigned nest boxes and note signs of nest building, and number of eggs and hatchlings. Note any signs of damage or intrusion into the nest box. Maintain careful records for all nest boxes and submit the records in a timely manner.

EXPECTATIONS:

- Commit to the required monitoring. Each nest box must be monitored weekly at a minimum. Notify the supervisor of your schedule, and identify dates you may be unavailable.
- Sign-up for workdays using SignUpGenius and report as scheduled. Notify the supervisor in advance if you are unable to keep your commitment, and delete your sign-up.
- Dress properly for the weather outdoors, in comfortable clothing; bring a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen; wear sturdy shoes; use insect repellent for ticks. Wearing long pants will help protect you from poison ivy and insects.
- Follow instructions from your supervisor and Arboretum staff. If you are given specific assignments, ask what you need to know to complete them. Communicate openly with your supervisor and colleagues to build productive working relationships. Be sure to mention physical limitations and safety concerns.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

- Volunteers learn through hands-on experience. The supervisor is responsible for your training and will orient volunteers to the projects.

- In order to be aware of safety measures and the work conditions that may be encountered as you perform various tasks, volunteers are to be familiar with the details under 'Safety While Volunteering' section of the Volunteer Handbook.
- Volunteers are encouraged to participate in informal learning sessions and field trips to enhance their experiences. Sometimes, volunteers may be asked to assist with tours.

DATE DRAFTED: 2/17/21, 12/15/23