



OVERVIEW Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalist (SCVN) TRAINING PROGRAM

- SCVN training program consists of three sections **beginning in October and ending the end of April:**
 1. **Training** classes start in October, meet every Monday AM for 4-5 hours and run through the first week in January. There is a two week holiday break in December. There are also two required classes on Thursdays (TBA) and at least two guided nature walks out of many that are typically offered on Thursdays from 8-10 AM. You may chose to attend only the two required or all that are offered.
 2. **Observation** is for 4 weeks in January. You will observe 5 SCVN classes being taught to school trips by experienced SCVNs. Observations are designed to assist you in making a choice for your internship.
 3. **Internship** is a once a week commitment and runs from February to the end of April preparing you to teach your own class. You will choose to intern either the kindergarten or elementary program (1st-5th grade) based on observations in January. Internship typical time commitment is 4-6 hours.

This may seem like a lot of training but we promise that with each lesson or visit to the canyon you will learn something new and fascinating about the Sonoran Desert and how to explain the joys to our eager visitors.
- SCVN training is based on **well-defined science**. We cover elementary geology, herpetology, entomology, predator-prey relationships, natural history, pollination and an overview of the Native People who inhabited this area in the past. All of this information is designed to fulfill the Arizona Education Standards, which allow elementary and kindergarten classes to participate in our programs.
- The training manual of learning materials is online. All correspondence is sent out through email. Trainees **MUST** have a computer or tablet and access to a printer.
- **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:** *A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert* (AZ-Sonora Desert Museum - **2nd edition**, 2015) for purchase at Sabino Canyon Visitor Center and other similar locations, and David Lazaroff's book, *Sabino Canyon: The Life of a Southwestern Oasis*.
- **\$100 TRAINING FEE:** This helps to cover the speakers' honorariums, class material and first year dues of \$30. After your training year, dues are \$30 yearly.
- **Commitment post training:** You will be expected to volunteer for at least **one year** in one of the **children's programs (elementary or kindergarten)**. School programs run from October through April - you are able to request a day that works in your calendar. Teaching includes a 1-hour instructional activity and a 1-hour interpretive hike. In addition, set up, take down & storage of teaching materials will take 1-3 hours on each teaching day. A typical teaching day starts around 8:30 or 9 AM and ends between 12 - 2 PM.

Other considerations:

- Physical requirements while teaching in the Canyon include a walk/hike on uneven ground for approximately 2+ miles and lifting up to 20 lbs (lifting of teaching supplies that are set up and taken down/stored after each class).
- Currently USFS regulations allow only applications/volunteers from U.S. Citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents holding Green Cards. See U.S. Government link [HERE](https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/lawful-permanent-residents). <https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/lawful-permanent-residents>.
- SCVN Covid precautions will follow USFS guidelines as well as SCVN requirements. Currently all SCVN members/trainees must be vaccinated and will be wearing masks when in close proximity to the public. USFS requires masks to be worn when inside USFS buildings. Please note guidelines can change at any time depending upon pandemic concerns.
- Training class size is limited.

SCVN IS AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION (operating under the umbrella of the United States Forest Service) that provides environmental education to the public. We have 3 programs: two school programs (elementary and kindergarten) and a public interpretation program for the general public. The Children's Programs are held from October through April. The Public Interpretation activities take place throughout the year.