

Johnson County Conservation VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

May 2025

We need your help for the following volunteer positions and events!

Nature Bop Fun Ride

Saturday, May 30

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Clear Creek Bike Trail

Help facilitate this new fun bike ride along the Clear Creek Bike trail. Volunteers are needed to assist with participant check-in, activity stations, or to ride the trail and check-in with participants along the route. Volunteers are not required to bike but we encourage it, if you are eager to get rolling. We have plenty of roles for folks who do not wish or cannot bike.

Contact: Michelle Wiegand

mwiegand@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Writing on the Environment Student Showcase

Tuesday, June 3rd

5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

CEC, Kent Park

Assist with the facilitation and minor set up of the Writing on the Environment Student Showcase. After an in-school visit from the Iowa Youth Writing Project and a full-day field trip at Kent Park, Iowa City 4th grade students respond to nature writing prompts. Select students' works from each school are published in an anthology. The student showcase is a chance for published students to read their writing to a supportive audience of friends, family, and school staff. They also get to share Kent Park with their families, so they can see all the fun things they did on their field trips.

Volunteers will assist with welcoming and directing students and families, room and food set up, and minor clean up after the event.

Contact: Michelle Wiegand

mwiegand@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Flip for more volunteer needs on the backside.

<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation>





Conservation Education Center Host

Volunteer CEC Hosts are vital in keeping the CEC in Kent Park open to visitors on summer weekends. Hosts serve as friendly ambassadors greeting visitors, answering nature- and JCC-related questions when able. We are seeking volunteers for Saturdays from June 1 to August 10, and every second Saturday in Sept, Oct, Nov, and December. Hosts unlock the CEC at 10:00 a.m. and lock up at 2:00 p.m. Hosts can serve one day or many, every bit helps! Currently, we are seeking a host for June 21, then looking ahead to Sept-Dec. The June 21st program is also a Raptor Meet & Greet, so the host will help facilitate visitors and raptor artifacts.

Contact: Kristen Morrow

kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Citizen Science: Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP)

With the future of the monarch uncertain, research into their habitat and abundance becomes even more important. During this effort, volunteers will visit the study site (located at Cedar River Crossing) throughout the summer to complete various activities required by this program to monitor monarch butterflies. Activities include identifying blooming plants and milkweed, searching for monarch eggs and caterpillars, looking for adult butterflies, and/or possibly raising one or two caterpillars at home. We go to the site on Wednesday mornings for 2-4 hours, but volunteers do not need to come every time, or participate in every activity. No prior experience is required – we can teach you everything you need to know! This work requires walking off trail through tall vegetation and often muddy conditions. This will be the fifth year JCC has been involved with this national citizen science program.

Contact: Frances Owen

fowen@johnsoncountyiowa.gov



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Banner photo: Two Horse Farm, credit: Erin Melloy

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