



The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks

HIKES • HISTORY • HORSES

Nature Hike Docent Information

Our Nature Hike Docents offer a wide array of outings and experiences for school age children, families, scouting groups and others who want to experience our parks on guided outings. We are always looking for new volunteers to join us. You'll make new friends yourself, get out in nature, and feel good about giving back to the parks. The Friends is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the local environment and historic legacies of two exceptional parks in Woodside, California. We are a combination of volunteers, donors, staff, and board members — all collaborating with the park rangers to preserve, protect and promote these special resources. We provide many programs for park visitors including Huddart Park Nature Hikes, Hikes with the Friends, Family Nature Days, the Folger Stable School Program, the Folger Stable Speaker Series, and the Folger Stable Carriage Room Museum.



A main focus of our nature docents is our field trip program, a unique outdoor education program designed for Kindergarten to 5th grade children to engage them in learning about the local ecology of the redwood and oak woodlands of our Bay Area, native Ohlone culture, and the history of the area. On the hike, the students discover sticky monkey flowers, giant redwood trees, banana slugs, turret spider nests and many other wonders.

Details

Trips are held on weekdays, primarily Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Docents meet at 9:20 AM to prepare for the trip. Field trips are finished by 11:30 or 12:30, depending on the program. The K-2 hike is one mile hike, the 3-4th hike is about 2 miles on various trails. We try to keep our groups to 6-8 children per docent. All groups have at least one other adult chaperone.

The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks strives to reach underserved students in our community. We offer fee waivers, transportation assistance and special hikes for our area's most needy children. Thanks to generous donors and grants, last year 40% of our hikers were low income children.

Other Opportunities

We often try to accommodate special hiking requests for afternoons, weekends and summers with interested naturalists. We work with special summer camps for homeless and underserved kids, scouting groups, and host family nature days. Another program that docents participate in is a health and wellness initiative working with doctors in local clinics to share the benefits of walking in the woods for patients as part of a county wide Parks Rx program.

Application & Training

Docents interested in our program first meet with us to learn more about the Friends and so we can get to know you. Potential docents have the opportunity to also observe a field trip or outing in action. New docents submit an application and go on one or more training hikes. Docents co-lead hikes until they are comfortable leading groups singly. Once accepted as a docent, volunteers undergo a fingerprinting background check. We conduct ongoing training opportunities and enrichment outings for volunteers. Docents are asked to commit to two hikes per month.

Feel like a kid again.



Give back to the parks you love.



Volunteering with the Friends is a rewarding experience. You will share your knowledge of the natural world and love for the outdoors with a large number of children, many of whom are from underserved communities. Our Huddart Park Nature Hikes serves more than 1,200 children each year and volunteers donate hundreds of hours to our programs. Volunteers in our program often form longstanding friendships with other docents. You will have the opportunity to learn about the natural world and interpretive techniques through training and enrichments. Finally, there are many opportunities to learn and socialize through Friends events such as volunteer and holiday receptions, a barn dance, the Folger Stable Speaker Series and co-hosted events with the county and other environmental partners. We hope you will

join us!

"This is the best field trip I've been on. I was surprised to learn that a majority of my first grade students have never been to a forest. Having visited Huddart Park myself, I was eager to find a way to share its beauty with these children. We so appreciate your help in making this experience available to our first grade students! Thank you!" First Grade Teacher, San Jose.

Contact Info: Please contact the Executive Director with any questions:

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We look forward to hiking with you!