



Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Volunteer Job Description

Title: Restoration Workday Volunteers

Purpose: Restoration workday volunteers assist Midewin's Ecologist and Horticulturist with natural areas management and restoration activities at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie remnant, restoration or seedbed areas.

Duties and Responsibilities: Tasks include but are not limited to planting native plant plugs in habitat restorations, brush control, seed harvest, seed cleaning and processing, invasive plant control, and native plant propagation.

Department and Location: Work locations are at various sites on Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, including restored and remnant native habitats, Horticulture Building and shadehouses, and native seed production beds.

Qualifications: A desire to directly participate in the restoration of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. An interest in and/or knowledge of propagation techniques, gardening, and botany is helpful. For seed cleaning and processing, being methodical, organized and able to follow protocols is a plus. Volunteers should be prepared for variable weather, uneven terrain, and hazardous insects and plants. Personal transportation to Midewin. Flexible, cooperative and the ability to work as a team and/or individually.

Time Commitment: Duties require participation in 5 or more hours per year. Volunteers can choose from scheduled Wednesday or Saturday workdays. There are also opportunities for volunteers work at other times with other volunteers or alone.

Training: Workshops and on-the-job training in native plant and weed identification, control measures, planting techniques, propagation and seed processing techniques.

Benefits: Opportunity to participate hands-on in the restoration and management at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Opportunity to see and learn about rare and unique plants and animals along with their associated ecosystems throughout the region. Volunteers receive ongoing recognition from their supervisor and other employee staff, Volunteers serving more than 5 hours annually are invited to an annual volunteer recognition banquet in November.