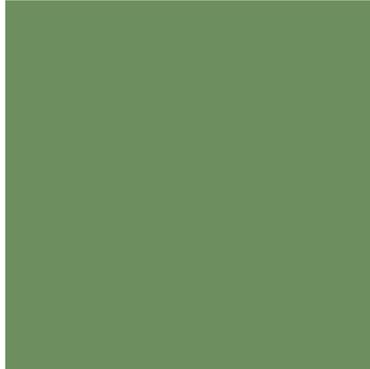




ONLINE VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION



CONTENT

- What is Ijams?
- Goals of the Program
- Organizational Structure
- Volunteer Positions
- Types of Volunteers & Requirements
- Next Steps



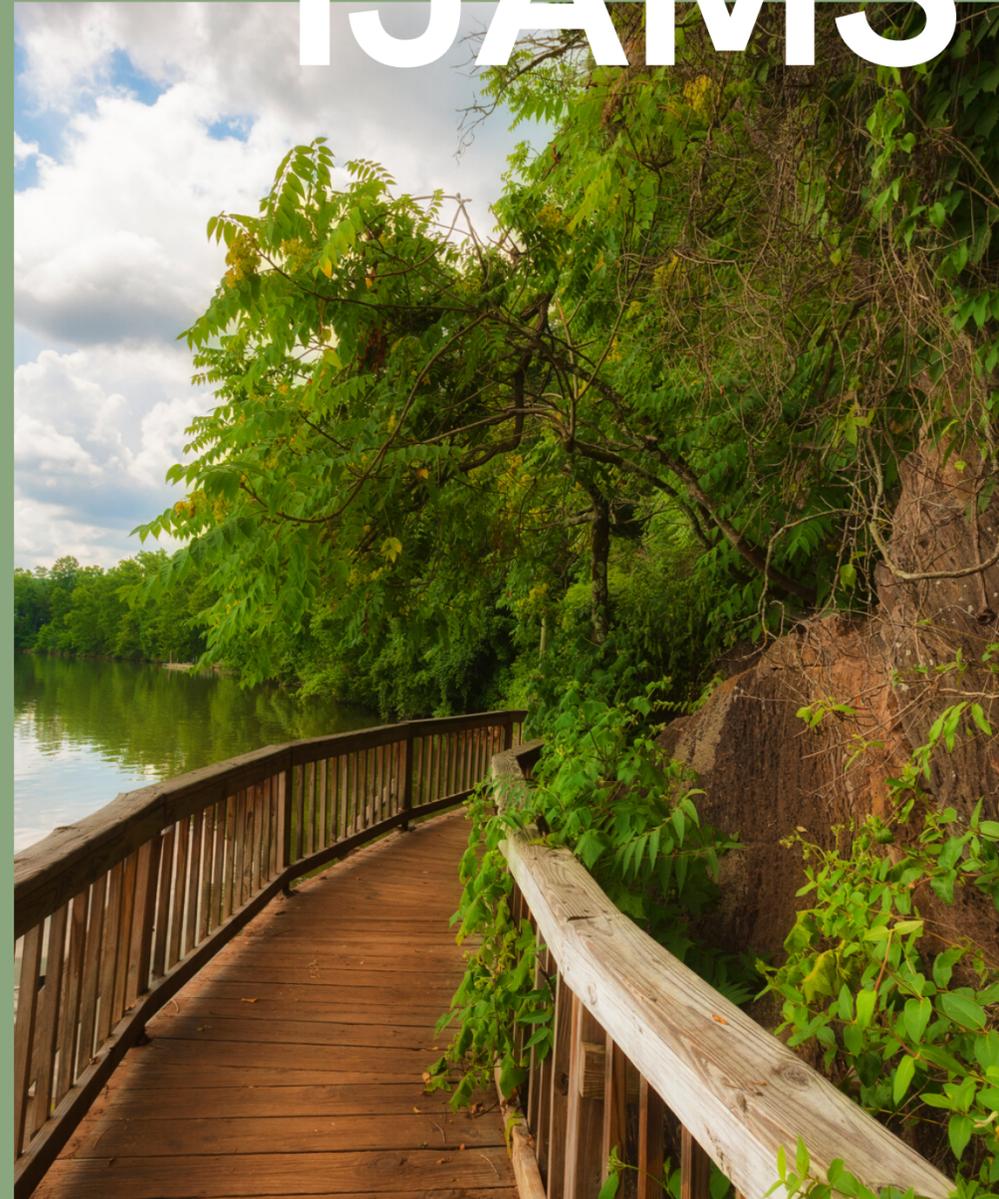
The Online Volunteer Orientation is meant for people who cannot make in-person orientations. Ijams HIGHLY encourages coming to an in-person session if you can!

WHAT IS IJAMS?

315 ACRE NATURE CENTER

Ijams has ~12 miles of trails, hundreds of programs, educational classes, and fun and big special events each year!

Ijams is not a city or county park, but Ijams does work with them to maintain some of Ijams. However, Ijams would not function without the generous help of the **hundreds of volunteers** that help each year!



WHAT IS IJAMS?

HISTORY

In 1910, Harry (HP) Ijams, **an illustrator and ornithologist**, and his wife, Alice Yoe Ijams, an avid gardener, purchased 20 acres of land along the Tennessee River to raise their four girls. HP would be instrumental in establishing the East TN Ornithologist Society. He would serve as the first president, and later as the statewide president.

When HP and Alice passed, their daughters worked with local garden clubs and the city to turn the property into a public nature park. In the 60s, the city took ownership and began restoration efforts. The park was dedicated in the late 60s and volunteers led public programming. In the 70s, Ijams gained **non-profit status**. Since then Ijams has been expanding its programs, land, and volunteer program to what you see today. Ijams has plans to continue to grow!



WHAT IS IJAMS?

MISSION

To encourage **stewardship** of the natural world by providing an urban greenspace for people to learn about and enjoy the outdoors through engaging experiences.

VISION

Through **direct experience with the outdoors** all people will appreciate and care for the natural world.



WHAT IS IJAMS?

WHY VOLUNTEER

Ijams simply would not be Ijams without the hundreds of volunteers who contribute their time and talents to this nonprofit nature center.

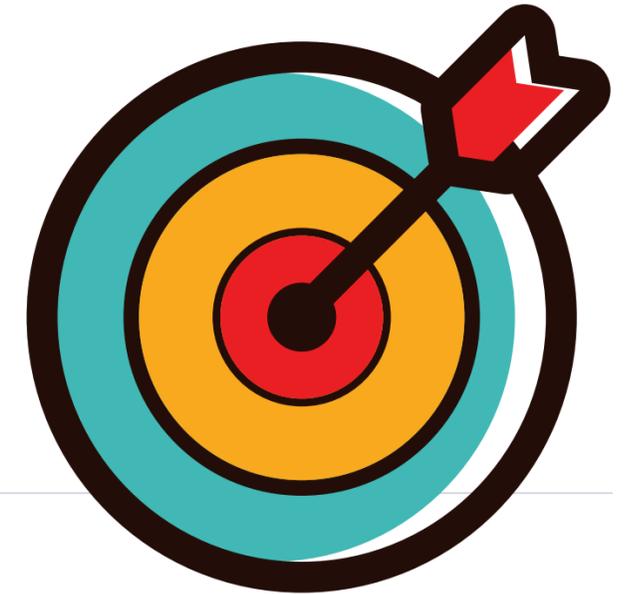
In 2019,

- 1,076 volunteers served at Ijams
- Volunteers served a total of 6,617 hours
- Volunteers removed 40,080sqft of invasive species



GOALS OF THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- To further the Ijams mission of encouraging stewardship of the natural world.
- To expand Ijams' capacity beyond the work of paid staff.
- To equip volunteers with training and tools they need to perform their volunteer duties with ease and confidence.
- To provide volunteers with opportunities for personal and professional development.
- TO HAVE FUN!



VOLUNTEER POSITIONS**



EDUCATION

Lead school group hikes, assist with public programs, set up touch tables and information booths, and much more. You don't have to know every rock, tree, and bird at Ijams- we're looking for people who are enthusiastic and willing to share their love of the outdoors with others.

- ROVING VOLUNTEER*
- BOOTH VOLUNTEER*
- FIELD TRIP LEADER*
- FIELD TRIP ASSISTANT*
- PUBLIC PROGRAMS VOLUNTEER*



NATURAL RESOURCE

Volunteers maintain more than 12 miles of trails throughout the nature center by mulching, weeding, and removing invasive species. Volunteers also work in our greenhouse and organic gardens planting, propagating, and harvesting crops. Some also help keep our river and quarry clean.

- WEED WARRIORS VOLUNTEER
- TRAIL VOLUNTEER
- GARDENING VOLUNTEER*
- RESTORATION VOLUNTEER*
- LITTER PICK-UP VOLUNTEER
- RIVER VOLUNTEER



BEHIND THE SCENES

In every non-profit organization, "behind the scenes" volunteers are the unsung heroes. They enter data, look over spreadsheets, prepare materials, assist with office work, and generally keep Ijams running smoothly. Caring for our Animal Ambassadors can also be a duty for behind-the-scenes volunteers.

- ANIMAL CARE VOLUNTEER*
- HISTORIAN VOLUNTEER
- BIRD FEEDER VOLUNTEER*
- ADMIN VOLUNTEER*
- INFODESK VOLUNTEER*



SPECIAL EVENTS

Volunteers are essential in helping Ijams put on some of the biggest and best events in East Tennessee. Volunteers assist in every aspect of our events, from event setup, event take down, crowd engagement, event marketing, and more. Every month brings opportunities to help out with events big and small.

- PLAZA VOLUNTEER
- EVENTS VOLUNTEER*
- RIVER RESCUE VOLUNTEER*

*depends on program's need for volunteers.

****Positions may be limited or halted due to COVID-19. Email the Volunteer Coordinator if you have any questions**

River

River volunteering is led by Ijams' River Captain Jerry Weaver.

Contact:
jweaver@ijams.org

Youth & Field Trips

Volunteers who want to educate youth reports to Ijams' Youth Programs Manager Tyler Edmondson.

Contact:
tedmonson@ijams.org

Visitor Services

Volunteering at the front desk and infodesk is led by Visitor Services Manager Sarah Brobst.

Contact:
sbrobst@ijams.org

Public

Volunteers who love to work with the public reports to Ijams' Public Programs Coordinator Jeremy Clothier

Contact:
jclothier@ijams.org

Animal

Animal Volunteering is led by Ijams' Animal Program Coordinator Mabre LaFollette.

Contact:
mlafollette@ijams.org

Administration

Volunteers who want to help with admistartion work should contact Ijams' Volunteer Coordinator Madelyn Collins.

Contact: mcollins@ijams.org

Natural Resource

Natural resource volunteering is led by Ijams' Natural Resource Manager Ben Nanny.

Contact: bnanny@ijams.org

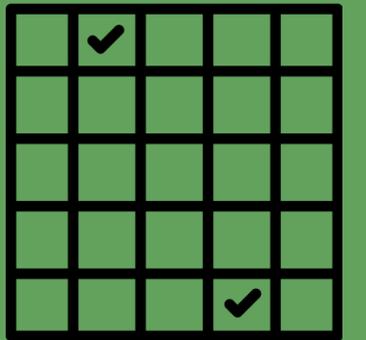


ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

***Only email the Volunteer Coordinator for an application!**



2 WAYS TO VOLUNTEER



Regular Volunteering

-Serve 10 hours a year or more

-Eligible to serve a regular volunteer shift weekly or monthly

-Invited to the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Celebration

-Receive an account into Ijams' hours tracking system

-Pay a one-time on-boarding volunteer fee to offset the costs of t-shirts, equipment, and background checks (only Education Volunteers require background checks).

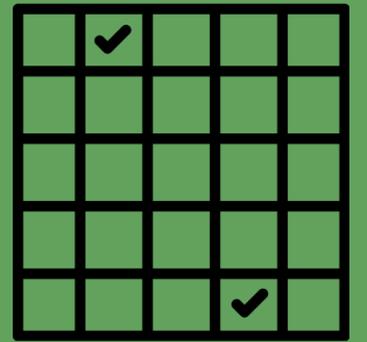
Occasional Volunteering

-Serve less than 10 hours a year

-Added to the Volunteer Newsletter to be updated on volunteer workdays and events



NEXT STEPS:



Regular Volunteering

1. After you've attended a Volunteer Orientation, email Volunteer Coordinator at mcollins@ijams.org to ask for a link to the Volgistics application. [If you attended Online Volunteer Orientation-- must take quiz first! Link located at end of Online Volunteer Orientation Slides]
2. Fill out the application-- applicants will pay a one-time \$15 volunteer on-boarding fee to help offset the cost of t-shirts, equipment, and sometimes background checks.
3. After you've been processed, you will be added into our system and receive an assignment and on-boarding training.

Occasional Volunteering

1. Email our Volunteer Coordinator at mcollins@ijams.org or visit the Ijams Nature Center to ask for a paper application.
2. Fill out the Occasional Volunteer application.
3. After you've been processed, you will be added to our volunteer newsletter, which will inform you of volunteer opportunities when they become available.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?



Email Ijams' Volunteer Coordinator Madelyn Collins
at mcollins@ijams.org.

Link to Online Volunteer Orientation Quiz here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfGd9S7CqaVUCsFyx4KTKjewM5Jx6a6K71VExsPQCz8IE_LVA/viewform