



**CONSERVATION
LEGACY**



Community Volunteer Ambassador – Saguaro National Park

Location: Tucson, Arizona

Position Details:

Stewards Individual Placements, a program of Conservation Legacy, provides individuals with service and career opportunities to strengthen communities and preserve our natural resources. The Community Volunteer Ambassador (CVA) Program combines the strength of a national leader in conservation service with the National Park Service to train a diverse group of emerging leaders to assist park units in addressing climate change issues and building lasting connections to communities.

The CVA will focus on expanding our volunteer program to more diverse audiences, especially communities that currently are not common visitors. They will reach out to groups such as Latino Outdoors, the Tohono O'odham Student Association, and Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, where they can have a targeted approach to engaging unrepresented groups. Forming strong relationships with these organizations will help expand the volunteer network and make it more diverse. The primary program that the CVA will expand is the park's Saguaro Stewardship Program, initiated by current CVA and others in 2023. This program focuses on climate change research, mitigation, and adaptation strategies, including research on saguaros and ecological restoration. It has been very successful with two local groups and the CVA will be expanding it further into the community in 2024.

Site Description:

Saguaro National Park is adjacent to Tucson, a city of nearly one million people that is very young and largely Latino (Latinx/Hispanic). The park's goals are to be a good neighbor and invite everyone into efforts to protect the resources that local people inherently appreciate and enjoy. The mission of the National Park Service is to preserve and protect our lands for future generations. By engaging people of all different backgrounds in management of these lands, the park hopes to create, locally, a more resilient world. Volunteer management at Saguaro National Park isn't centralized, and each division has staff that oversee volunteers. In Resource Management, most biotechs and interns are trained to direct volunteers and work with them on a regular basis on a wide variety of projects. Saguaro's crew members work with older regular volunteers that often serve for years, student groups, and younger individual volunteers who often work once or twice a week for a season while they are in school or seeking further experience. They also work with underserved schools in the community and get them involved with volunteer events.

Position Responsibilities:

The CVA will:

- Leverage existing volunteer and community engagement in Tucson to expand the Saguaro Stewardship Program and creating goals related to recruitment, skill-building, and high-impact volunteer events.
- Directly engage volunteers in climate change research, mitigation and adaption, especially related to climate change impacts on saguaros, wildlife, and invasive plants.
- Reach out to local colleges, high schools, and community organizations to expand our youth volunteer base and inspire and provide skills to the next generation of NPS leaders.
- Support ongoing volunteer activities and assist our partners, including other NPS, by connecting volunteer projects with underserved groups.

CVA Minimum Requirements:

- Out-going, open-minded, sensitive to diverse views and cultures, reliable, friendly, detailed-oriented, and a great team player.

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- Interest in science and conservation and enjoy getting young people excited and engaged in service work.
- Participate in the CVA National Early Service Training in late March/early April 2024 (date TBD)
- Be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
- Be 18-30 years old at time of service (veterans up to 35 years old)
- High School Diploma/GED
- Pass fingerprint-based FBI, state criminal, and a national sex offender checks.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience working with community groups in Tucson or similar western city.
- Experience in the outdoors, ideally in a desert environment where conditions can be hot, dry, rocky, and filled with spiny plants.
- Be able to provide proof of a driver's license and complete a MVR check (Be over 21 years old or have had license for at least 3 years to be insured in this position)

Additional Information:

Saguaro National Park does not provide housing and, unfortunately, has no public transportation available to the park. The park is on both sides of a large city where many housing options are available, but the CVA will need a car or other transportation to get to the work site.

Saguaro National Park is adjacent to Tucson, a vibrant, growing city of nearly one million people that is very young and largely Latino (Latinx/Hispanic). Tucson houses a major university (University of Arizona) and robust community college system. Saguaro is considered one of the national parks in America most threatened by climate change, and a major park interpretive theme is environmental change. Many of our most precious resources – including our signature plant, the saguaro – will be, or already are, impacted by climate change. Invasive plant infestations, such as buffelgrass, greatly threaten the biodiversity of the desert through creating wildfire and outcompeting native plants.

Saguaro National Park makes it clear to every employee and intern that we are committed to a workplace that is safe, comfortable and fun, even when it is very physically demanding. The park's employees represent a "big tent" and are very diverse in terms of cultural background, age, and gender identity. The park is committed to making sure that everyone feels respected for who they are at all times and addressing issues right away as they come up. The park's overall strategy for fostering an inclusive and accommodating environment is exemplified through the Next Generation Ranger Program, which is for youth of all different identities and backgrounds and provides an environment where they can grow, learn from their mistakes, know that they have a voice, and develop leadership and other skills that will support them in their career, no matter what direction it goes in.

Benefits:

- CVA will receive a weekly stipend of **\$600**
- An additional \$150/week in housing allowance will be provided, if housing is not available at the site.
- Limited health care/childcare benefits
- The position is eligible for an AmeriCorps Education Award \$6,895.00 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of the program
- \$1,200 in professional development funds for training, networking, conferences, and/or travel.
- Networking opportunities within the National Park Service and partnering organizations
- Public Land Corps Hiring Authority



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- Week-long in-person training at NPS site with travel/meal expenses covered.

How to Apply

Please visit [Community Volunteer Ambassador \(cva.nerp.gov/\)](https://cva.nerp.gov/) to review “Member Positions” by region and find instructions on how to apply.

The CVA position will start on **Monday, January 22nd, 2024**, and run for 48 weeks until Friday, December 20th, 2024. Applicants will need to apply here: <https://form.jotform.com/StewardsIPP/cva-member-application-winter-2024>. Application form requires a resume, cover letter, professional references.

Please ensure your cover letter addresses how your experience aligns with the CVA program, your experience working with diverse populations, and position details for this park/position. You may submit one application for multiple positions by selecting all sites you are interested in.

Applications Deadline

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. First review will occur in early November. Final deadline is **Sunday, December 10th, 2023**.

For Application Questions:

Please contact Geoff Elliot, Program Director at gelliot@conservationlegacy.org

Conservation Legacy is an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to hiring a breadth of diverse professionals and encourage members of diverse groups to apply. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, political affiliation, protected veteran status, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law. We also consider qualified applicants regardless of criminal histories, consistent with legal requirements. If you need assistance and/or a reasonable accommodation due to a disability during application or recruiting process, please send a request to the hiring manager.