



V.O.L.E.S. stands for Volunteers for Open Lands' Educational Services. VOLES help lead Lake Forest Open Lands' field studies for local schools. With the help of VOLES, classes of 21 students can be divided into small groups. The quality of learning is vastly improved when learners are actively engaged in hands-on activities made possible by small groups.

Teachers love VOLES-led field studies because

- ◆ Students learn better in small groups
- ◆ Students retain what they learn because they are learning by doing
- ◆ The field studies are tailored to the schools science curriculum
- ◆ The field studies are sequential through the grades

What do I need to know and what is the time commitment in joining VOLES?

1. You will be given the training you need to feel comfortable with the activities you are leading.

- ◆ Written scripts and background information are provided for each field study.
- ◆ You will observe a program being taught before you teach it yourself.
- ◆ You will be leading a small group, not an entire class.
- ◆ Interested VOLES can also work towards becoming the lead teacher for some programs.



2. You may volunteer to the extent that your schedule allows.

- ◆ You need only sign up for programs that you are comfortable teaching and that fit your schedule.
- ◆ You may be a VOLE who specializes in 1st grade field studies or, learn to teach as many grade levels as you wish.
- ◆ LFOLA schedules grade levels in 2-3 week blocks. Your entire annual VOLES commitment may take place 4-6 times during a particular 2-3 week period. Or you may choose to teach several different grade levels throughout the school year.
- ◆ The amount of time you volunteer may change from year to year, depending on your other commitments.
- ◆ What is important is that you are prepared to teach whatever program you sign up to teach and that you are ready to provide a quality learning experience for your group.

3. VOLES enjoy learning from LFOLA's top notch naturalists while working with them.

- ◆ One of the reasons VOLES enjoy this volunteer job so much is because they learn so much from it.
- ◆ Voles can assist LFOLA's staff with a variety of programs throughout the year in addition to school field studies. VOLES choose the programs they want to assist with according to their own interests and availability. For example, VOLES have assisted with family campfires, after school programs, seed collecting, monitoring of butterflies, planting and prescribed burns.

4. Enrichment programs for Voles

- ◆ Staff have taken VOLES canoeing, owling under a full moon after a pot-luck supper and on wildflower and bird walks.
- ◆ VOLES are kept informed about workshops and lectures of interest.



"I learn so much while "voling" with the VOLES. It has been fabulous because of that."

Gay Georgi, VOLE

"It might be a simple look on a child's face, but you know it's an, oh, wow, I got it moment! It's wonderful to have a place like Open Lands where we introduce children to local wild places."

—Nancy Gunder, VOLE



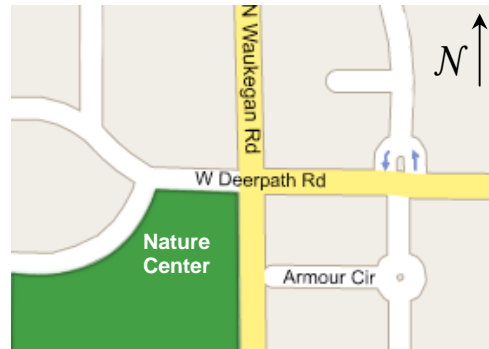
"Our education volunteers are people who enjoy teaching children, have a strong connection to the natural world and a desire to share their enthusiasm with the next generation."

—Jeremy Batson, Director of Education

**For More Information
on how to become a VOLE**

Call (847) 482-1928 or email Rekha Athreya at rathreya@lfol.org

The Lockhart Family Nature Center and Mellody Farm Nature Preserve are located at the southwest corner of Deerpath and Waukegan Roads in Lake Forest.



We offer year-round programs for children, adults and families, all emphasizing discovery and building connections with the natural world.

Lake Forest Open Lands is dedicated to conserving our natural environment through land acquisition, habitat restoration, environmental education and conservation advocacy.

Nature Center Office Hours:
8am—4pm; Monday—Friday



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www.lfol.org

LAKE FOREST OPEN LANDS V.O.L.E.S PROGRAM

Have you ever taught a child about owls, frogs or prairie plants?...



Here's your chance...

-To be outdoors

-To spark a child's interest

-To Make A Difference!