



## 2019 Docent Training Program

### *Gain knowledge, Give back*

Every Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9am- 1:15pm

Classes will be held at The Arboretum at Flagstaff

#### **What is an Arboretum docent?**

Located on 200 acres, The Arboretum at Flagstaff is a nonprofit organization and home to 750 species of plants in gardens, greenhouses, and natural habitats. We support the community as a research and conservation center, outdoor education facility, nature retreat, summer camp, and unique venue for retreats and special events.

As trained volunteers, docents assist with public tours and school field trips. Docents are essential to our educational mission of fostering knowledge and appreciation of The Arboretum and the Colorado Plateau. Docents are our Arboretum Ambassadors- bringing The Arboretum alive for our visitors!

#### **Docent Training details:**

*Course expectations* include: reading required texts, participating in trainings, practicing speaking/interpretative skills and learning to lead tours and educational programs. We will provide instructional materials and additional trainings.

Guest speakers, who are authorities in their fields, will offer presentations designed to increase the trainees understanding of subject areas and their ability to lead public and school tours.

#### *Subjects of Training Classes:*

- The Arboretum at Flagstaff's mission and history
- Programs and projects
- Ecology and sustainability
- Botany and Ethnobotany
- Horticulture and gardening techniques
- Interpretative techniques and sense of place
- Climate change
- Forest health and ecology

#### *Docents will learn:*

- Botanical and environmental content related to Flagstaff and the Colorado Plateau
- How to communicate key ideas to diverse audiences
- How to lead and create meaningful and engaging public tours

**First Year Requirements:**

Upon graduation, a commitment to provide service primarily through public tours and/or school field trips during our open season April- October. Docents are expected to lead a minimum of five tours during their first season after training is completed. We hope you do more and come back year after year!

100% attendance at each training session is expected. Exceptions can be made for special circumstances.

**Docent Benefits**

- Free family membership after 8 tours
- Volunteer Appreciation Celebration
- Special Docent only events
- Continued trainings on Arboretum & Colorado Plateau topics

**Docent Testimonials**

“How has being a docent at The Arboretum enriched and improved my life? It is a long list! I’m smarter, more confident, more capable of talking about the place in which I live, about climate change, native plants and the Colorado Plateau. I’m doing something meaningful, interacting with smart and interesting people, being of service, and supporting a non-profit I believe in. I feel appreciated and respected. I get to be outside in beautiful and unpaved Flagstaff and share that joy with others. I meet nature-minded people from all around the world. Any anxiety I may be feeling or despair about the world lessens or disappears when I’m in the gardens. By being a docent, I am affirming life!”

- Pam, Docent since 2016

“Having the opportunity to be a docent is an invitation to reawaken the celebration and exploration of the natural world that is our home here in Flagstaff. Then we are able to share that wonder with groups of visitors who have a similar curiosity. What a pleasant way to learn and interact with others.”

-Mark, Docent since 2015