

Be part of the solution

Be a Volunteer Wildlife Ambassador

As recreational and residential demands increase on the eastern slopes of the Canadian Rockies, so do the chances of human-wildlife conflicts. The Wildlife Ambassador Program is a community-driven education initiative that promotes responsible land use and wildlife safety ethics in Kananaskis Country and surrounding communities. Over the last two summers, Wildlife Ambassadors in the Bow Valley spoke to nearly 6000 people about living safe with wildlife!



This year, we're expanding the program! We're looking for thirty enthusiastic and mature individuals who are capable of striking up conversations with new people, enjoy being outside, and who want to have a positive impact in Kananaskis Country. If you are concerned about the increase in human-wildlife interactions, would love to spend a day on the trails in the Bow or Elbow Valley, and want to connect with people from your community, this may be the volunteer opportunity you have been looking for!

Duties and Responsibilities:

In teams of two or three, volunteers will present roving or stationary wildlife talks on trails, at trailheads, and in campgrounds throughout Kananaskis Country. Using exceptional communication skills and natural history artifacts, Ambassadors will engage people in friendly conversations promoting smart trail use and increased awareness of wildlife safety and habitat needs. Volunteer Ambassadors will not act in an enforcement capacity, but will play an essential role in education and information sharing.

This year, we will be training two crews of fifteen people. The Canmore crew will primarily rove the Bow Corridor, and the East Kananaskis crew will primarily rove the trails in the Elbow Valley, near Bragg Creek. Both crews will have opportunities to rove at various special events throughout the region.

Qualifications:

No experience is necessary as extensive training will be provided. Interests or hobbies related to environmental education, interpretation, ecology, parks, and natural history are an asset. We are committed to diversity among the Volunteer Wildlife Ambassadors and encourage applicants of all backgrounds and ability levels to apply.

Successful applicants must have or obtain:

Consistent access to a vehicle and a Standard First Aid certificate

Time Commitment:

Volunteers must complete a no-cost training program in May consisting of two evenings and one Saturday:

Part One: May 19 (in Bragg Creek) or 20 (in Canmore), 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Part Two: May 26 (in Bragg Creek) or 27 (in Canmore), 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Part Three: May 30 (in Canmore), 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Wildlife Ambassadors will be expected to commit to a minimum of one or two four-hour shifts per month, on a Saturday or Sunday, from June to September. The program may be extended year-round on a pilot basis, and based on volunteer availability.

Benefits:

Volunteers will receive extensive training on living smart with wildlife, communication techniques, and relevant natural history. These training sessions include guest speakers, opportunities to learn and practice new skills, and constructive peer and instructor feedback.

To Apply:

email kananaskis.outreach@gov.ab.ca or send resume c/o Ambassadors, Suite 201, 800 Railway Avenue, Canmore, T1W 1P1

You will be sent an application form to outline why you feel you would make a good **Wildlife Ambassador**.

Application Deadline: April 17, 2009 (interviews will be held at the end of April)



This volunteer opportunity is presented jointly by the Friends of Kananaskis Country, Bow Valley WildSmart Community Program and Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation.