

# Helen Schuler Nature Centre Volunteer Program

**Mission:** *To support and inspire closer relationships between people and the natural world around us. Our team of volunteers, staff, and partners work together to foster environmental awareness and leadership.*

**Vision:** *Together with nature! Our community values and cares for our local environment.*

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## Role Title: Trail Rover

**Purpose:** Trail Rovers act as the eyes and ears of the Nature Centre – reporting their observations, sightings, and photos from the trail system. Supporting the mission and vision, the Trail Rover represents the Nature Centre in the community by helping trail users understand and appreciate what they are experiencing. Rovers often share their love and knowledge of what can be discovered in Lethbridge’s river valley.

**Location:** Trail Rovers work in various locations throughout the City of Lethbridge at any park or natural area accessible by the city’s trail system.

### Role:

- Report sightings of plants, mammals, birds, and insects to the Nature Centre for the Bio DataBase.
- Report trail user statistics and damage reports.

### What does a trail roving shift look like?

- **Park Stewardship**
  - Walk the River Valley trails.
  - Refill brochure boxes.
  - Provide general trail maintenance.
  - Pick up litter.
  - Correct minor infractions.
- **Data Collection**
  - Participate in citizen science programs like Bio DataBase.
  - Ensure visitor safety by reporting possible hazards and concerns.
  - Fill out and turn in Rover Report forms at the end of each volunteer shift.
- **Promotions & Programming Support**
  - Provide general interpretation to trail users when appropriate.
  - Assist with Ask a Naturalist program.
  - Answers questions about the Nature Centre.

**Length of Volunteer Shift:** Minimum 1 hour per Trail Roving Report.

**Time Commitment:** Submit one Trail Roving report every two weeks. Please be able to make a minimum commitment of six months with at least 3 hours per month.

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**Reports to:** Technician, and Volunteer Coordinator.

**Training, Orientation and Supervision:** Through a two hour orientation, Nature Centre staff will provide a solid foundation for Trail Roving. Volunteers will learn about the history of the Nature Centre and its place in Lethbridge's River Valley; familiarize themselves with Roving resources including handouts, speaking points, maps, guide books, and library resources. All Trail Rovers will receive a copy of our Coulees & Cottonwoods Field Guide and a Lethbridge Trail Guide. Trail Rovers are expected to be comfortable walking the trails independently and completing trail roving reports at the end of each volunteer shift without supervision. Participation in additional training, workshops, and programs is encouraged.

## Qualifications & Personal Traits:

- Strong oral communication skills.
- Desire to be outside in nature at city parks and in the river valley.
- Desire to learn about Lethbridge natural history.
- Willingness to share knowledge about nature in Lethbridge.
- Outgoing and enthusiastic.
- Able to be self-motivated and work independently.
- Ability to climb steep slopes and walk rugged terrain.
- Patient.

**Age Requirement:** 16+

**Dress Code:** Outdoor Casual with uniform top provided (light brown t-shirt, dark-brown t-shirt, polo shirt, black vest).

**Security Checks:** All Nature Centre volunteers are subject to a criminal record check.

**Benefits:** Certificate of Service, first-aid training support (after 100 hours), milestone awards, volunteer socials, ongoing training and support.

**Please note:** Must be able to provide own transportation to and from desired trails for roving.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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