

The mission of Tohono Chul Park is to enrich people's lives by providing them the opportunity to find peace and inspiration in a place of beauty, to experience the wonders of the Sonoran Desert, and to gain knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage of this region.



Tohono Chul - meaning "desert corner" in the language of the Tohono O'odham - is a 49-acre desert preserve surrounded by the rapidly growing northwest section of Tucson. The Park was founded in 1985 by Richard and Jean Wilson to promote the conservation of fragile, native desert regions; and to educate the public about desert ecology, arid land plants and responsible water use. In addition, the Park strives to demonstrate the impact of the various ethnic populations of the region by exhibiting creative arts, past and present, which are a reflection of the artistic, historic and cultural heritage of the American Southwest and arid zones of the Americas.

Docent Program

*do' cent n. [L. docens]
a knowledgeable guide, especially one who conducts visitors through a museum and delivers a commentary on the exhibitions; a unique individual with a special role to play in a museum setting*

This is how the dictionary defines "docent." At Tohono Chul Park, we define docents as urban desert interpreters, trained volunteers excited by

the rewarding challenge of explaining to visitors the complex interrelationships between the plants, animals, and people of our desert environment. Docents conduct guided tours of the Park, staff investigation stations, and represent Tohono Chul in its community outreach to schools, libraries, social groups, and civic organizations.

Training

Docent candidates should

- + be dependable and enthusiastic
- + possess good communications skills
- + have a strong interest in the Southwest and its natural environment
- + be able to lead tours of the Park grounds and exhibits, and
- + be willing to work with visitors of all ages, especially children

The Tohono Chul Park Docent Program offers special educational opportunities in the natural and cultural history of the Sonoran Desert. Classes meet on Wednesdays from 9:00am to 4:00pm. During the 18-week course, sessions cover desert ecology and plant identification + geology and archaeology + arthropods, reptiles, birds, mammals + ethnobotany + Arizona history and native peoples + environmental ethics + interpretive methods.

Benefits

Tohono Chul Park offers an opportunity to celebrate the Sonoran Desert, enriching our daily lives through a greater understanding and appreciation of the plants, wildlife, peoples, and cultures of our region. As a non-profit organization with limited staff, volunteers are the lifeblood of our programs.

Docents can experience the satisfaction inherent in public service, the reward of service to an organization dedicated to the preservation of a unique environmental setting, as well as

- + expert instruction from local professionals
- + lifelong learning opportunities
- + handbook, vest, nametag
- + volunteer hours translate into free lectures, admission passes, and additional discounts

Responsibilities

- + maintain annual membership in the Park
- + successfully complete the Docent training course (\$125.00 fee)
- + contribute an average of 12 hours per month in interpretive/educational services for two years following training
- + complete 16 hours of continuing education each year — Docent meetings, orientations, and/or lectures, workshops or field trips
- + provide visitors accurate information, treating them with courtesy and respect
- + be dependable, meeting scheduled commitments



For many visitors, their most lasting impression of Tohono Chul Park is of the volunteers who assisted them. Enthusiasm is infectious, and docents daily demonstrate the Park's philosophy and purpose. Please consider this opportunity to

enrich the lives of others, as well as your own. If you are up to the challenge, all it takes to make a difference is just a few hours a week!

If you are interested in applying for Tohono Chul Park's Docent Program, you can download an application from our website or return this form. Address questions and correspondence to:

Tom McDonald, Docent Coordinator
Tohono Chul Park
7366 North Paseo del Norte
Tucson, Arizona 85704
520-742-6455 x 244
tommcDonald@tohonochulpark.org
www.tohonochulpark.org/volunteer.html

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone

Email

First Class
Postage
Required

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the DOCENT PROGRAM

at



**TOHONO CHUL
PARK**

Discover its Nature!



photo by Ron Metrescek and courtesy of The Arizona Daily Star

New Class Begins Oct. 3!

Prospective Docent Coffee
Wed., Sept. 19 at 10:00am