

Oregon Zoo has opportunities for adult and youth volunteers

Do you enjoy interacting with people and animals? The Oregon Zoo has opportunities for youth and adult volunteers to work at least one three-and-a-half-hour shift per week from mid-May through Labor Day in the Winged Wonders butterfly

exhibit as ZooAmbassadors. Orientations are scheduled on April 12, 19 and 22.

ZooAmbassadors provide general animal and exhibit information to visitors, while spending time with colorful butterflies in the butterfly garden.

Anyone 15 or older can volunteer on his or her own, while youths ages 10 through 14 can volunteer with a parent.

The zoo is encouraging entire families to volunteer. "Last year several family members volunteered together," commented Tony Vecchio, Oregon Zoo director. "It's rare for children to be included in these opportunities. It's a unique way to create lasting family memories."

The program is designed to extend knowledge about the importance of wildlife conservation, while simultaneously bringing families together.

Duties include talking to zoo visitors, ensuring the safety of the butterflies, and monitoring

exhibit doors to prevent butterflies from flying away.

"I have seen huge changes in the demeanor and communication skills of kids who volunteer," commented Paula McCall, volunteer coordinator. "It's a fun learning experience for everyone involved."

There are many benefits to volunteering. ZooAmbassadors will meet people who share similar interests and values; receive free zoo admission and a complimentary train ride; have the opportunity to volunteer at zoo concerts; learn about how to attract local wildlife; and participate in training opportunities only available at the zoo.

ZooAmbassadors are first required to attend one orienta-

tion session. After attending this overview, those who choose to continue will receive 10 hours of training. Orientations are offered on the following days:

Thursday, April 13, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Wednesday, April 19, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 22, 10:00 a.m. to noon

For the session of your choice, call 503-220-2783 or e-mail communityvolunteer@metro.dst.or.us.

The Oregon Zoo has one of the largest zoo volunteer programs in the country. More than 1,700 individuals volunteer more than 143,500 hours per year.

April is also Grange Month, April 17 is the date to find out more

All those interested in learning more about the Community Grange are invited to a meeting on April 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the community Grange Hall on North St. in Vernonia.

"The Vision for the Grange" is that the Grange in the 21st century will be a pre-eminent organization.

It will commit to the development of the potential in families, youth and adults of all ages through dynamic programs and experiences that educate, engage and enrich lives.

The Grange will be noted for its commitment to the membership through its enabled leadership, its financial and organizational strength, and its ability to make differences in the lives of children, youth, families and

individuals.

The Grange will be a relevant, caring and involved part of the community in which its members are located. It will be well known and understood and considered a viable, involved and distinctive organization. Members can expect in the organization a clear and impressive pathway to fellowship with leaders and citizens of the community. Meet and make new friends and have the opportunity to lead and be led while serving the community.

The Grange has been an active organization in Vernonia since 1902 and meets in a building that was constructed in 1907. If this interests you or you want to learn more, we hope to see you on April 17.

mEGGa Easter Egg Hunt

The mEGGa Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 15 at the Columbia County Fairgrounds from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In the spirit of community, local organizations, businesses and public officials come together to create the day of fun for the kids of Columbia County.

"This is the sixth year of the mEGGa Easter Egg Hunt and we continue to grow a little each year," said Committee Chair Evelyn Hudson. "The process of cleaning, stuffing and organizing a hunt of 20,000 eggs is a year-round project. This has always been one of my favorite events because, with the help of volunteers and community donations, the event is free to the public, there are not a lot of those left," said Hudson.

The siren from a Columbia River Fire & Rescue fire engine will blow promptly at 11:00 a.m. to officially start this year's hunt. The ground is divided up by age groups and volunteers

spend the morning spreading out the eggs in each area. Over 150 eggs are filled with golden egg tickets that kids bring inside the pavilion to a designated station and exchange for a special prize.

In addition to the actual hunt, kids can enjoy the 4-H Petting Zoo that's full of bunnies, piglets, birds, chickens, calves, goats and more.

Throughout the school system coloring contest sheets with detailed information on the mEGGa Easter Egg Hunt will be distributed. Kids can do the coloring contest at home and bring it to the fairgrounds on the 15th, or they can sit down in the pavilion and color on site. Other activities include the Veggie Tails movie – *The Easter Carol*, face painting, buggy rides, archery demonstration and pictures with the Easter Bunny. The Columbia County Rodeo Court is back again this year with pony rides.

MTC Works and Worksource Oregon Employment Department would like to thank the following businesses for making our 10th Annual Columbia County Job & Career Fair a huge success:

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*Home Depot

*Meadow Park Care Center

*Oregon Air National Guard

Oregon Department of Human Services
Portland Habilitation Center

*Rose Valley Assisted Living Facility

Securitas Security Services

*St. Helens Community Federal Credit Union

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*AFLAC

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*Salon Allure

Sherman Brothers Trucking

*Stimson Lumber Company

Tongue Point Job Corps Center

Washington State Dept. of Corrections

*West Coast Shoe Company

(*Employers who provided door prizes for the event)

Special thanks to:

CRPUD for hanging the Job Fair banner

Wild Current for catering the lunch

Costco for providing dessert

The 10th Annual Columbia County Job & Career Fair was made possible in part with Community Development Grant funds.