



# Free Flight Exotic Bird Sanctuary

## Junior Docent Program

### F.A.Q.s

#### How old do I have to be to be a Junior Docent?

At least 14 years of age.

#### When is the training offered?

Training dates will be Monday, June 27 - Friday, July 1st, 2022 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Students must participate in this week-long training program to be qualified for volunteering at the sanctuary.

#### How is the Junior Docent Program different than “camp”?

Our Junior Docent Program training course is designed to develop teens as volunteers and guest ambassadors within an animal sanctuary setting. We ask them to come passionate about birds and prepared to learn how to share that passion with our visitors. After completing the course, they are certified as Junior Docents of Free Flight, and will be required to volunteer for at least 2 hours every month for one year.

#### How is the Junior Docent Program different than regular volunteering?

While our main volunteers focus on the cleaning and maintenance that go into Free Flight, our *docents* serve to educate sanctuary visitors and help us in our mission to achieve lasting concern for exotic birds within the greater community. Though Junior Docents will be expected to learn cleaning routines and help with general upkeep, their primary focus is sharing their passion for the birds with our visitors and helping to enrich our flock!

## What are the major areas covered during the training?

- **Parrot 101** (Species overview, behavior, lifestyles, characteristics, diet & nutrition, health & safety, behavioral issues, training, etc.)
- **Volunteering in a sanctuary** (Following safety protocols; Approaching guests; Offering information about the various birds here at Free Flight; Helping visitors handle certain birds; Food preparation; Creation of enrichment devices; General cleaning & maintenance)
- **Parrot handling**

## What is the cost of the training course?

\$175 for the week

## How many participants will there be?

Usually we have between 10-15 docents in a single course

## Is prior parrot-handling experience necessary?

No! All we ask is that you come with a positive attitude and a respect for our feathered friends.

## What should I plan to bring each day?

- Refillable bottle for water
- Snacks/lunch if desired
- Sunscreen
- Sweater/light jacket (temperature can vary greatly in our yard! Some also find it more comfortable to have a layer of cloth between their arms and the birds' claws)

## Will I get bit while I am here?

Hopefully not! While parrot bites are always possible, staff will show you the warning signs to look out for in order to prevent bites. If you are bitten, not to worry! It means you are part of the flock. Sooner or later we are all bitten, given that we work with them so frequently. The majority of the time, bites are not serious.

### **The course is already full! What can I do?**

If the course has already filled up, or you are unable to attend the dates in question, please email Isabelle at [freeflightbirds@live.com](mailto:freeflightbirds@live.com) to notify us that you would like to be notified should an additional training week become available.

### **What do I do if I need to cancel?**

Free Flight *may* offer a refund for the program. In order to do so, arrangements must be made at least 2 WEEKS prior to the start date of the course.

### **Any other questions or concerns? Contact Isabelle at [freeflightbirds@live.com](mailto:freeflightbirds@live.com)**

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