

Farewell to a Valued Volunteer

Kenneth Nalley, Park Naturalist/Volunteer Coordinator

Since assuming the role of volunteer coordinator, I have met many amazing people. Working at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge has given me great insight into just how vital volunteers are in this field. Volunteers help us in every area. They help maintain our trail systems, forge new trails, remove invasive plant species, propagate and plant native plant species, educate and engage students and the general public about the Refuge, and help take care of our ambassador animals at the Hardwicke Interpretive Center. Our volunteers keep the Nature Center running, and we couldn't do it without them.

I would like to call attention to one volunteer in particular for his outstanding work and dedication to the Nature Center. Wesley Yates graduated from Tarleton State University with a degree in geology in 2016 and began working at Camp El Tesoro in Granbury shortly after. Wes says he was interested in volunteering at the Nature Center because he wanted to learn more about the field in which he worked. He started volunteering as a Natural Guard volunteer in February 2017, switched to animal care in January 2019, and became a docent in April. In Wes's short time as a docent, he has made a lasting impact on the staff and students he has taught. He always arrives with a smile on his face and an eagerness to lead and explore nature with the children.

Like nature itself, however, volunteers are forever evolving, and the Nature Center staff would like to congratulate Wes as he moves to a new job as a park aide at Cape Disappointment in Washington state. Dedicated volunteers such as Wes are part of what makes the Nature Center such a wonderful place for our members and the general public to enjoy.



Wes holding a corn snake at Camp El Tesoro. Wesley Yates Photo.