



## Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center

9325 S Alda Road  
Wood River, NE 68883

[cranetrust.org](http://cranetrust.org)

308-382-1820



# Volunteering at Crane Trust

The Crane Trust welcomes volunteers from all walks of life to help provide a welcome place for visitors and wildlife along the Platte River. Whether guiding public crane tours, helping with special events, maintaining trails, or assisting with science research, volunteers play essential roles.

As a non-profit organization, the Crane Trust relies on the support of our amazing volunteers to fulfill our mission of protecting and maintaining critical habitat for cranes and other migratory birds along the Platte River. Our needs are especially great during crane migration season in March, when 30,000 visitors experience everything that the Crane Trust has to offer.

If you share our passion and wish to offer your time, please talk with Crane Trust staff, or submit a volunteer form on our website.

### Volunteer Roles

#### **Community Education & Outreach**

We offer programs for all ages to schools, groups, families, service clubs, and businesses. Volunteers are invited to assist staff with programs on site and in the community to share the Crane Trust's mission, our work, and the importance of that work to both wildlife and the humans that co-exist with it. Participant groups can vary in age, ability, and experience.

#### **Visitor Hospitality**

Help create an outstanding experience for our visitors and participants. During migration season, extra help is needed to greet and guide visitors in the Nature & Visitor Center. This includes welcoming visitors, sharing information about the crane migration, assisting with facilities upkeep, and other duties.

#### **Gift Shop**

Engage with customers, help stock shelves, assist with inventory, and fulfill other needs to help Crane Trust maintain one of the most appealing gift shops in Nebraska.

#### **Snack Bar**

During migration season and other special events, welcome customers and help with food orders and food prep.

#### **Butterfly Garden**

We hope to attract butterflies and other pollinators to the butterfly garden at the Nature and Visitor Center. This job involves some lifting, bending, kneeling, and carrying. Learn about native plants and enjoy active time outdoors while you help Crane Trust!



## Volunteer Roles Continued

### **Riverfront Blind Tour Guides**

During March, volunteer guides facilitate crane viewing experiences for participants in the riverfront blinds. Guides provide education and instruction for morning and evening tours. Tours run a maximum of 2.5 hours and are limited to 25 people/blind. Guides must be able to walk half a mile over rough, mowed trails in the dark. Training is provided, usually in early February.

### **Grounds/Trail Maintenance**

Volunteers are needed to periodically help construct and upgrade viewing blinds, maintain walking trails, restore prairie areas, and assist with other general needs to keep grounds, facilities, and equipment in clean, working order.

### **Science and Habitat**

On occasion, the science and land management staff need help with projects and research to support our mission. Projects may include working in the greenhouse, collecting prairie seeds, helping manage invasive plants, or assisting with wildlife surveys. These duties are always changing and vary by season.

### **Special Events**

Special events vary with the seasons. Building maintenance and beautification help is sometimes needed to keep the Nature and Visitor Center clean, organized, and welcoming. Other special events throughout the year require setup and cleanup in meetings rooms, decorating the building inside and out, leading tours on the walking trails, greeting groups, and more.

**Thank you for your interest!** Please note that community help is most needed in March, and periodically throughout the year.

Learn more and submit a Volunteer Application Form:

**[www.cranetrust.org/how-to-help/volunteer](http://www.cranetrust.org/how-to-help/volunteer)**

