

## VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION

### Metro



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**Position Title:** Native Plant Center seed scout

**Division / Program:** Land Conservation - Natural Areas Program

**Purpose:**

Native Plant Center seed scouts help Metro conserve uncommon, threatened and rare native herbaceous species by monitoring native herbaceous species, tracking phenology and documenting population location. Seed Scouts visit various Metro properties each year to locate, identify and document native and relocated populations of uncommon species. This supports Metro's work to enhance and increase biodiversity of regionally significant habitats. The preservation of native species creates a healthier ecosystem for wildlife, fish and people for current and future generations.

**Benefits:**

Visit premier Metro properties not yet open to the general public. Find, see and monitor rare and unique plants, some endemic to the Northern Willamette Valley, and learn about the ecosystems these species rely on to flourish. Increase your dedication to conserving biodiversity and become skilled at identifying rare species in all phenological stages: vegetative, flower and seed.

**Essential Position Responsibilities:**

- Attend one required one-day (six hour) seed scout training sessions in March.
- Attend a second one-day (six hour) seed collector training; optional if attended a previous year.
- Commit to visiting assigned site to scout and monitor phenology of targeted species approximately two times per month from March through August or September (site dependent).
- Arrange for your travel to assigned Metro site with team members and/or Native Plant Center staff.
- Become familiar with the species listed for monitoring; learn to identify species in all phenological stages from vegetative through seed is ripe and ready to collect.
- Conduct site visits on two-week intervals weeks to monitor phenological stage, collect and document all observations as presented in training; determine seed collection date(s).
- Find 2011 waypoints; re-establish waypoints, set pheno-points and new waypoints as needed.
- Enter field data into electronic format; send to NPC staff within one week of site visit (required).
- Mentor/lead seed collectors; familiarize them with the sites, waypoints and species for collection.
- Maintain and document volunteer time by paper or electronic format; turn in hours monthly.
- Maintain regular communication with Native Plant Center coordinator and team members to schedule and confirm scouting dates, field kit and transportation arrangements.
- Maintain good working relationships with Metro staff, volunteers, and property neighbors.
- Consider additional tasks to support seed scouting such as updating waypoints on google map, data entry, photographing phenological stages of select species

**Qualifications, skills and abilities:**

- An interest in or knowledge of native herbaceous plant identification
- A completion of NPC seed collectors training.
- Methodical, organized; good observation skills and an attention to detail.
- Ability to identify native plants in the wild and to distinguish select species (rare, uncommon or otherwise) for other co-occurring specs.
- Additional training in plant identification is preferred; applicants with beginning plant identification skills may be directed toward volunteering as an individual or group seed collector
- Ability to navigate using handheld Garmin GPS unit; create waypoints, make compass readings
- Undeterred by weather, including hot, sunny days; rough terrain, including rocky or steep slopes, mucky edges of riparian strips or wetlands; and occasional bee and poison oak hazards
- Ability to meet at prearranged location to carpool; on site or at Metro office or field station
- Willingness and ability to lead seed collectors on occasion or as needed
- Flexible, cooperative and able to work as a team or independently as needed.
- Experience using a dichotomous key is required
- Reliability, commitment and promptness in filing reports, posting pictures and sharing information
- Attend Early Detection Rapid Response training (optional)

**Time commitment:**

Seed scouting begins in late March and continues into September. Each site targeted for monitoring or collection will have a team of seed scouts with the addition of collectors in June. Scouts will commit to visiting their site every two weeks throughout the season. Team members may divide large or complicated sites such as Cooper Mountain and the Willamette Narrows or allocate visits among members.

**Training provided:**

Volunteers receive on-the-job training in seed scouting protocol, native plant and weed identification, site orientation, use of Garmin GPS units; seed collection protocol and how to know when the seeds are ripe.

**Receives guidance from / reports to:** Marsha Holt-Kingsley, Native Plant Center coordinator, at Metro Native Plant Center, 2661 SW Borland Road, Tualatin, OR 97062; cell: 503-701-7554 or [nativeplantcenter.volunteers@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:nativeplantcenter.volunteers@oregonmetro.gov)