Off-Leash Dog Area (OLDA) Volunteer Caretaker

Description: Volunteer with your four-legged friend and help the Forest Preserves of Cook County promote its mission while ensuring a clean, safe, and healthy dog area for all members.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Be an Ambassador
- Introduce yourself as a Volunteer Caretaker to other members and ask for feedback about the OLDA
- Greet, welcome, and provide an informal orientation for new members
- Assist staff with growing OLDA membership by helping to plan special events and performing outreach in the community in coordination with the Staff Supervisor(s).
- Promote the mission of the Forest Preserves and the success of the off-leash dog areas

Monitor, Support & Report
- Walk the OLDA grounds to pick-up and dispose of trash, replenish mutt mitts, and encourage OLDA members to pick up dog waste
- Perform maintenance within site-specific parameters set by FPCC staff. Activities may include weeding, turf reseeding, tree branch removal etc.
- Complete the electronic OLDA site inspection form and submit it to the Staff Supervisor by the end of each month
- Represent the dog community at quarterly meetings with the Forest Preserve staff, or as needed
- Report issues/concerns to appropriate staff, including FPCC police, staff supervisor or 911 for emergency situations*
  * Formal training will be provided.

REQUIREMENTS
- Must hold a current off-leash dog area permit
- Visit the off-leash dog area weekly for a least one hour OR twice weekly for 30 minutes
- Must have a love of dogs and the Forest Preserves, a friendly attitude, and great oral and written communication skills
- Must have access to and knowledge of using an online system.
- Wear hi-visibility volunteer vest provided by the County when "on duty"
- Carry a cell phone at all times in case of emergency

TRAINING &EXPERIENCE

All volunteers will be required to complete an orientation and training for their position. Training will be conducted by an FPCC staff member. Previous volunteer experience is not required.