

# Seeking Nature Play Area Volunteers!



Support the Nature Play Area (NPA) at the Eco Experience by volunteering for a few hours this year. Families experience calming, open-ended nature play and can be inspired to include more nature play in their lives at home.

## Responsibilities

- Engage with families
- Basic daily open routine and closure routine
- Tidy up the area periodically (pick up litter, reset play areas)
- Ensure safety (no swinging sticks, no climbing teepees, etc.)
- Have fun!

## Time commitment

- One 3- or 4-hour shift, plus your travel time to the State Fair
- The NPA is open from 9am-7pm
- Shifts are 9am-1pm, 1-4 pm, or 4-7 pm, August 22 through September 2
- Email communication with volunteer coordinator (Kelly Amoth) and NPA coordinators (Rebecca Ryser, Youmi Hong, and Brigitte Hay)

## Support and training

- There will be training materials and a meeting with all volunteers about your shift responsibilities closer to the State Fair
- There will be a handout reiterating responsibilities at the NPA itself for easy reference
- The Info Booth and Eco Experience building manager are available for questions during the fair

## Benefits

- One free ticket to the Minnesota State Fair (two for Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day shifts)
- An Eco Experience t-shirt. Note you can choose to wear a shirt representing your organization during your shift(s) if you like (you can still get an Eco Experience t-shirt to go)
- The opportunity to distribute a small flyer about your organization while on site

**Skills and qualities needed**

- We are seeking volunteers who are already members, staff, or volunteers from an organization that promotes nature education/play

**How to sign up**

- See details in the NPA Sign Up Instruction slides

**Questions:**

Contact Kelly Amoth (volunteer coordinator) at [kelly.amoth@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.amoth@state.mn.us) or Rebecca Ryser at [Rebecca.ryser@state.mn.us](mailto:Rebecca.ryser@state.mn.us).

**About the Nature Play Area**

The [Eco Experience](#) is presented by the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). [Fireflies Play Environments](#), [Landscape Renovations](#), and [Crows Nest Design](#) have created an open-ended, creative, and beautiful adventure playground at the Eco Experience. The MPCA is coordinating volunteers for this area.

**Pretend Play with the Sand Kitchen and Water Towers**

The sand area has a sand kitchen, which is a simple wood structure, and sand toys to promote constructive and social play. Children will also be able to play and cool off in a small stream of running water and a kid water tower.

**Construction Zone**

In the Construction Zone, children are free to build their own structures, tear them down, and recreate. They are encouraged to take to learn resilience, grit, and problem-solving skills. They become engineers, scientists, planners, architects and more.

**Hammocks, Teepees, and Log Ship**

Hammocks are an easy way to add quiet places for reflection and relaxation. There will be a couple hammocks for attendees to enjoy and relax in. The colorful teepees and log ship are additional fun areas to promote imaginative play.