



Sacramento Tree Foundation

Volunteer Position Description — Save The Elms Program (STEP) Citizen Scientist

*Must be 16 years of age or older to apply

Reports to: Director of Education and Engagement

Time frame: May – September

Time Commitment: 5 - 20 hours total from May – September 2016; depending on number of trees you commit to monitor (each tree should take < 5 minutes to monitor).

General Description

STEP Citizen Scientists will help the Sacramento Tree Foundation and the City of Sacramento identify local elm trees that may have symptoms associated with Dutch elm disease (DED). DED is a rapidly spreading fungal disease that has taken the lives of thousands of Sacramento elm trees since it arrived in Sacramento in the 1990s. Citizen Scientists will be trained to identify symptoms related to DED of the approximately 2,000 remaining public elm trees and notify the City of Sacramento about any potentially infected trees. Trees identified with potential DED symptoms will be examined by the City of Sacramento's Certified Arborists to determine if the fungal disease is present; diseased trees will be removed. Citizen Scientists will be asked to commit to monitoring their elm trees three times between May and September. STEP Citizen Scientists may work individually, or recruit volunteers to work as a STEP team.

Specific Responsibilities and Requirements:

- MUST be able to attend STEP Citizen Scientist Orientation & Training. Dates include*:
 - [Saturday, May 21 @ 2 - 3:30 pm](#) (Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95818)
 - [Tuesday, May 31 @ 6 - 7:30 pm](#) (Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95818)**Training dates for June and July will be scheduled soon!**
- Have an interest in tree identification and tree canopy health. Training will be provided.
- Willingness to learn how to look for signs of DED. Training will be provided.
- Willingness to “adopt” 10+ public elm trees within the City of Sacramento. Adoption includes commitment to visually monitor each tree three times between May – September.
- Volunteers will be asked to evaluate whether each elm shows potential signs of DED (mark date monitored on GreenprintMaps mobile device app or website and upload a photo of the elm tree if there is visible evidence of DED).
- Ensure that the proper trees are monitored; commitment to using online maps to confirm tree location.
- Commitment to relaying monitoring information through GreenprintMaps mobile device app or website. Mobile device (Android or Apple smartphone, or tablet) highly recommended.

Attitude, Abilities, and Skills

- Understanding of nonprofit, mission-based organizations.
- Interest in building a better community by strengthening our urban forest.
- Willingness to honor all policies and procedures.
- Willingness to learn how to enter data into GreenprintMaps mobile device app or website.
- Comfortable with reading online maps.
- Comfortable with learning how to identify elm trees and potential disease in trees.
- Ability to provide own transportation for monitoring route.

Benefits and Rewards

- Free Sacramento Tree Foundation STEP t-shirt.
- Invitation to our STEP Celebration Party in October.
- Satisfaction of knowing that you've helped save our remaining elm trees!
- Certificate of Completion for monitoring season.

If interested, please contact us at volunteer@sactree.com or (916)-974-8733. Interested in helping us save the elms, but don't want to monitor – we may have something for you; please [contact us!](#)