



NEWS RELEASE
September 22, 2014

Conservancy Seeks New Docents

Cowiche Canyon Conservancy's **Docent Program** is seeking volunteers. Docents are valuable members of the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy's Education Program and a vital link between the community and Yakima's delicate shrub-steppe ecosystem. The Docent Program supports the Conservancy through various forms of public outreach, promoting conservation and educational and recreational use of Cowiche Canyon Conservancy properties.

Volunteer docents learn how to:

- lead fun field trips, interpretive nature walks and hikes,
- discover basic ecology,
- teach visitors about the butterflies, insects, birds, wildflowers, geology and other unique aspects of the area, and
- help visitors appreciate and understand our natural areas and the value and benefits they add to our lives.

Docents are asked to make a commitment of 15 volunteer hours per year. Docents have ongoing opportunities for professional development, learning about local ecology, interpretive and educational techniques.

No prior experience or specialized knowledge is required to serve as a docent, just the desire to learn and teach others about this interesting landscape. Successful docents are friendly, enthusiastic, flexible and able to work with visitors to encourage interactive discovery.

Those interested in becoming a docent can learn more by attending an orientation hike at **Snow Mountain Ranch on Saturday, October 11, 2014 from 10am – 12 pm**. Come prepared to walk the trails.

For more information and to RSVP, please email office@cowichecanyon.org or call (509) 248-5065. Directions to Snow Mountain Ranch can be found at www.cowichecanyon.org/trails/SnowMountainRanch-EntryTrail.pdf