

ROSEWOOD COMMUNITY SCIENTIST

PHENOLOGY OBSERVER



The Rosewood Community Scientist Program aims to provide educational opportunities to the residents of the Truckee Meadows and foster connections to nature, collect data to inform wetland restoration management decisions, and contribute to national climate research efforts.

Goals

Scientific Understanding

- Collect phenological data over a span of several years to visualize how our native plants and animals at the Rosewood Nature Study Area respond to yearly variations in temperature and precipitation.
- Collect phenology data on invasive species to inform decisions about the best timing for their removal.

Education

- Educate the general public and students about phenology and the importance of studying life cycle timing.

Engagement

- Encourage participants to regularly spend time in the outdoors to foster love and respect for nature in our community.

Volunteer Position Description

Volunteers will record phenological observations of a group of selected plants and animals at the Rosewood Nature Study Area using the Nature’s Notebook program.

Volunteers may chose to monitor plants, animals, or both. Participants are asked to collect data at least 2 times a month, with a minimum of 3 hours per month.

Time of participation is flexible and can be dependent on individual schedules. This position entails working independently in the field for over an hour at a time.

Experience is not required; an orientation and training will be provided.

We are looking for volunteers who:

- Are self-driven, detail oriented, independent workers
- Are passionate about the biodiversity of the Truckee Meadows
- Are looking to develop professional skills
- Are comfortable walking over a mile on uneven surfaces, standing for an extended period of time, and bending or crouching over

We are looking for volunteers who: possess or have the passion to improve the following skills:

- Plant and animal identification
 - Knowledge of the Truckee Meadows Ecosystem
 - Data collection
 - Knowledge of local biodiversity
- Be part of the broader effort to study climate change



For more information or to get started, contact Caroline Stillitano (Community Engagement Coordinator) at caroline@tmparksfoundation.org

What is Phenology?

Phenology is the study of plant and animal life cycles and the timing of their biological events.

The specific timing of flower budding, leaf color change, or bird migration are all examples of phenology. Knowing the phenology of our flora can help researchers forecast the impact that a changing climate has on the structure and function of our ecosystems. For example, birds that rely on temperature and precipitation cues to begin migration events may migrate earlier than expected in response to a warming climate. Likewise, deciduous plants might produce leaf buds earlier in response to increasing temperatures.

