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Interpretation Puzzle

Putting the pieces together.



The perfect fit?

- Docent Training
 - The usual
 - What is Interpretation?
 - Intro to Touch Carts
- Mentoring time
- Interpret!

Docent training consisted of several weeks of training beginning in September. Totaling 20-24 hours. It covered the usual and ended with the introduction to Touch Carts and how to interpret. Ideally there was mentoring time that followed then Volunteers were on their own to sign up.



Involvement

- Use it or lose it!



So here is one of my fall Docent classes. All smiling faces - ready to go but by the time training was complete it was our slow time...

They were trained but now there is not much going on. Just as they were ready to go...

There were still: Special events, inside events, fall events up until Thanksgiving. Their schedules are busy – school, family, holidays. Museum Touch Carts. It could be 3-4 months before they use what I taught them. I was in a panic with the use 'em or lose 'em fear.



The New Volunteer

- Educated
- Busy
- Motivated
- Family



The New Volunteer – we've talked about it at conference, on the listserv how short term volunteers are growing. Volunteers who are educated and want to use their skills. They are busy, busier than ever and don't want to spend a lot of class time going back to school. I don't get a lot of college students even though there are three universities within 30 miles of the zoo. I am getting a lot of family pairs and the seasonal volunteers. So I am growing my seasonal/summer Docent, Double Docent pairs, and Zoo Teens.

I have slowly evolved toward a new training style.



Self Directed Study

For Our Volunteers

- Docent Training Handouts
- Additional resources added and updated

Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure Page 1 of 2



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Docent

The following downloads are in .pdf form. To view them you will need to download the latest [Adobe Reader](#). Note: This is the same reader that is used for the Education Handouts.

Volunteer Handouts
Member Power Slides

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Taxonomy | The Basics |
| Interpretation | Elements of Interpretation - Skills in Education |
| Reptiles | Characteristics , Crocodile anatomy , Snake anatomy , Snake skull anatomy , Tortoise anatomy |
| Hooftstock | Domestic , Hooved mammals feet , Horns & Antlers , Characteristics , Taxonomy |
| Primates | Characteristics , Taxonomy |
| Adaptations | Birds of a Feather , Good Her Day , Scaly Skin & Scales , Teeth |
| Training Slides | Hooves |

Touch Cart Handbooks

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Zoo | Introduction | Seas |
| | Antelope/Aardvark | North American Cats |
| | Camel | Bear |
| | Sheep | Manatee |
| | | |
| Museum | Jugs | Embroidery |
| | Soils | Earliest Animals |
| | Ecosystems | Endangered Species |
| | | |
| Extra | Photo of Ganesh | |

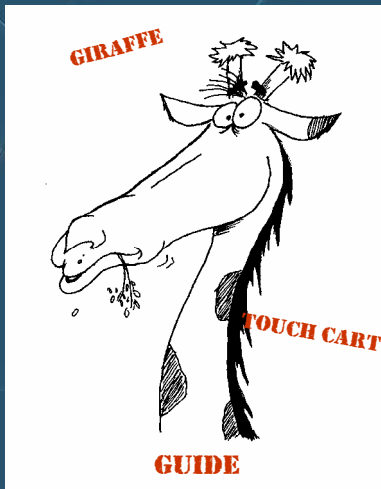
Contact the Volunteer Services Office, call 785-827-9488 ext. 143 or [em](#)

<http://www.rollinghillswildlife.com/forourvolunteers/training-handouts.html> 6/13/2006

One that includes self directed study. It's online, includes downloadable handouts that they would be receiving in class as well as resource sites for further research.



Touch Cart Guides



- Enables motivated vol to move ahead
- Keeps seasoned vol on track
- Lessens the need to re-teach



SHOW: Guide examples

DISCUSS: Does anyone else use something similar?















Perfect fit!

- Interpretation Training
 - ~Volunteer Web page
 - Touch Cart Guides
- Monthly "Walk & Talk"
 - ~ Mentor time
- Interpret!

www.rollinghillswildlife.com/forourvolunteers/online.html

Our perfect fit may not be yours. Currently we have new volunteers who after orientation attend monthly meetings and learn by example, discussion, and comparison with each other and staff.

Volunteers are encouraged to download the guides and handouts then research more on their own keeping to our interpretation "guidelines".

Monthly "Walk and Talk" meetings increase their comfort level, keep the touch carts in the front of their minds, and their confidence in the material continues to grow as we lead by example.