

URBAN CANOE ADVENTURES

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Friends of the Chicago River runs the Urban Canoe Adventures Program to provide a fun way for Chicagoans to get to know their river. The program is built on extensive volunteer support. Volunteer canoe guides receive free training from Friends in exchange for their help leading canoe trips during the summer season. Being a canoe guide is a fun and rewarding way to help Chicago learn to know and love its river again.

Training for volunteers takes place on weekends during the spring. Volunteers are trained in CPR, First Aid, and paddling techniques, and attend workshops on topics such as Chicago history, ecology and water quality.

Please return the application to:

Kimberly Bevan, Friends of the Chicago River, 28 E. Jackson Blvd., Ste. 1800 Chicago, IL 60604. You may also fax it to **(312) 939-0931**, or e-mail the information to **kbevan@chicagoriver.org**.

Application Deadline: March 31, 2010

Canoe Guide Job Description

Qualifications:

- Be able to swim 50 yards and tread water for 3 minutes.
- Be able to carry a canoe short distances (canoes are usually carried by two people, and weigh up to 90 pounds).
- Be comfortable traveling to many different areas of the city and suburbs
- Be able to attend trainings on weekends in the spring. Most trainings are a few hours in length, but a few of them last all day
- Have an interest in canoeing and in learning about the Chicago River

Responsibilities:

- Complete training during the Spring
- Volunteer at four or more canoe events in the summer and the Flatwater Classic in October
- Work with other guides to handle emergencies
- Lead discussions and answer questions about the Chicago River
- Help organize groups of people participating in the canoe trips
- Help participants with paddling skills
- When necessary, help participants carry and get into/out of their canoes.

Please note, space in the training program is limited. Once the training is full, applicants will be put on a waiting list.

A. PROFILE

Name:

Age:

Email address: _____

Daytime Telephone Number:

Nighttime Telephone Number:

Address: (street, city, state, and zip)

Work Address (if different):

Do you prefer to be contacted at work or at home?

Can you swim?

Do you have a trailer hitch, and if so, would you be willing to help haul canoe trailers? (Canoe trailers used by Friends require a 7/8 hitch rated to 1000 pounds and a 4-prong electrical hook-up. Haulers are reimbursed \$25 per trip for gas.)

B. Relevant Experience:

Indicate those areas in which you have had significant training or experience, including volunteer work or community service.

- Business/Managing/Accounting
- Counseling
- Social Services
- Teaching/Tutoring
- Youth Work/Coaching
- Local History
- Small Boat Handling
- Life Guarding

- Communication/Journalism
 - Health
 - Public Speaking
 - Can Speak a Language other than English
 - _____
 - Restoration/Clean-up Work
 - River Ecology
 - Other _____
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C. REFERENCES

Because volunteers will be working with youth and with the public, Friends reserves the right to contact references. **Please do not list family.**

1. Name:
Address:

Phone (daytime preferred):
Relationship to you:

2. Name:
Address:

Phone (daytime preferred):
Relationship to you:

G. PERSONAL STATEMENT

Please answer **two** of the following questions on another sheet of paper. Answers should be no longer than a paragraph or two.

1. Why do you want to become a canoe guide?
2. What skills or experiences will you bring to the canoeing program?
3. Canoe guides will need to be comfortable leading diverse groups of people. Tell us about an experience you have had being a leader *or* an experience you have had working with people of different ages or backgrounds.

I. CERTIFICATION

All applications must be signed by the applicant. By signing this application, you are stating that all of the information provided is true to the best of your knowledge.

Signature _____ Date _____