



## **VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION**

**TITLE:** Counter Invasive Agent / Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Volunteer  
**LOCATION:** Volusia County, Florida  
**REPORT TO:** Becki O'Keefe, Volunteer Coordinator

### **OVERVIEW OF POSITION**

Native plants existed in Florida prior to European contact, occurring as part of the natural landscape. Exotic plants found in the wild are sometimes "naturalized", a naturalized plant is an imported plant that persists in the wild on its own without being cultivated. Introduced exotic plants account for 1,300 + species found in Florida's forests and wild lands. Some of these pose major problems for Florida's ecosystems. There are two classifications for exotic plants: Naturalized exotic plants are non-native plants persisting in nature, without displacing native species or causing damage to Florida's habitats. Invasive exotic plants displace our native plants, causing damage to all types of natural habitats and threatening the food supply of indigenous wildlife. The removal of Invasive Exotic plants in our parks and conservation lands is a priority to Volusia County. Counter Invasive Agent volunteers will help identify these plants and become good stewards of natural Florida lands. Counter Invasive Agent volunteers will also learn to recognize and remove exotic invasive plants. They will learn the removal techniques in our public natural areas first, and then use that knowledge to eliminate exotics growing in their own backyards.

### **SPECIFIC TASKS**

1. Identify Invasive plant species.
2. Flag plants that have been identified.
3. GPS invasive plant locations.
4. Measure plant diameter and distance from closest non-invasive plant.
5. Remove plants, shrubs or trees sometimes using cutting tools such as power tools or manual tools.
6. Bag plants, shrubs or trees once they have been removed.

**Please note that specific tasks may change depending on the project.**

### **TIME REQUIRED**

2-6 HOURS DEPENDING ON PROJECT

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

1. The desire and motivation to protect the natural environment by removing invasive exotic plants.
2. The ability to work independently and in a team setting.
3. The ability to become knowledgeable of invasive exotic plant identification.
4. Excellent communication skills.
5. Ability to lift up to 50 pounds.
6. Ability to work in the field where light exertion to arduous exertion is possible.

## **AGE REQUIREMENTS**

Must be 18 years of age. May be 16 years of age if parent or legal guardian is present and has signed a liability waiver.

## **EXPERIENCE**

Prior experience is beneficial but not required.

## **TRAINING REQUIRED**

On the job training will be provided.

## **LENGTH OF COMMITMENT**

The demand for Counter Invasive Agent volunteers fluctuates depending on the specific invasive plant and the season. During a removal project, the commitment will typically be once a week until the project is complete.

## **BENEFITS TO VOLUNTEER**

1. Learn about invasive exotic plants from experts.
2. Satisfaction of knowing how important your role is in minimizing a very challenging management problem for biologists.
3. Meet people who share a common interest and goal to protect the environment.
4. Students can use volunteer hours for graduation requirements.
5. Great addition to resume!