



Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Volunteer Job Description

Title: Midewin Photo Project

Purpose: Midewin Photo Project Volunteers will contribute to Midewin's photo collection by taking quality seasonal photos of historical structures, wildlife, landscapes, trails, visitors recreating, etc. These photos will be used for presentations, publications, our website, and overall outreach to visually share Midewin's past, present and future.

Duties and Responsibilities: Photographers must provide their own digital camera equipment. Photographers may explore any open area on Midewin for photo opportunities. With USFS permission and under the guidance of a designated Photo Project Coordinator (or Forest Service employee), photographers may participate in scheduled group trips into certain closed areas of Midewin. Photos should be high quality (resolution) and be 8MB or greater in size. Photos should be identified. Photo files will be collected and stored under the supervision of a designated Photo Project Coordinator(s).

Department and Location: Photo Project Volunteers shall serve as U.S. Forest Service volunteers without respect to department, and shall be subject to all conditions as set forth in a completed and approved USFS Volunteer Agreement. Midewin Photo Project photographers must agree that photos taken within the closed area on Midewin property, as described under this job description, shall become property of the United States, and as such, will be in the public domain and not subject to copyright laws.

Qualifications: Photographers must provide their own camera and batteries and should ideally have experience in taking quality digital photos. It is anticipated that participating photographers will be willing to take photos during all four seasons, at various times of day, and under varied weather conditions.

Time Commitment: While a one year time commitment is anticipated, actual commitment is flexible. USFS Volunteer Agreements are generally valid for multiple years from date of approval and are subject to renewal.

Training: All Photo Project participants are required to annually complete an in-house orientation that will include, but not be limited to: basic safety (Foot Travel Job Hazard Analysis), protocols, and various training materials. It is anticipated that annual re-orientation will take place.

Participation / Access: The number of individuals allowed to participate in the Midewin Photo Project may be limited. Photo Project volunteer participants will be allowed to take photos within all Midewin open areas generally any day of the year from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset. Some special access restrictions may occur from time to time. Should there be cause to restrict access; the US Forest Service shall make attempt to provide timely notification.

Working Conditions / Physical Effort: Photo Project participants are covered by the USFS Volunteer Agreement (Form 301a) only while taking photos on Midewin property during open trail hours or on established photo project outings.

Photographers may work in variable conditions including but not limited to:

- Exposure to outdoor weather conditions & allergens
- Walking on uneven ground and/or tall vegetation
- May be working near hazardous plants or insects
- Walking on wet terrain and/or through tall vegetation and near standing water
- Working in or near deteriorating historic infrastructure
- Sharing Midewin with other users including hunters during deer and turkey hunting season. For safety reasons, Photo Project participants are required to stay on trails during designated deer and turkey hunting season(s).
- Other conditions as identified in mandated Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) training

Benefits: It is anticipated that participation in Photo Project activities will be fun, educational, and personally rewarding. Active volunteers that contribute 6 or more hours in any 12 month period ending October 1 will receive an invitation to the Midewin annual volunteer recognition banquet. In addition, active volunteers will receive a free subscription for the bimonthly Prairie Telegraph Newsletter. Photo Project participants may be featured in the Prairie Telegraph Newsletter, in newspaper articles, and in US Forest Service success stories.

Related Opportunities

- **Photo Point Monitoring** requires photographers to choose a precise location and take a photo at the same time annually and/ or quarterly. Location(s) are typically limited to those areas that are in the process of being restored. Photo Point Monitoring importantly allows for visual (photo) tracking of ongoing restoration progress - year after year.

To learn more about the Midewin Photo Project, please contact either Jerry Heinrich, Midewin Photo Project Coordinator at 815.476.6171 or g.heinrich@sbcglobal.net or contact Allison Cisneros, Midewin Volunteer Coordinator at 815-423-2149 or amcisneros@fs.fed.us