Volunteer Position
Project Ponderosa Nursery Assistant

Project Ponderosa
Project Ponderosa is a local, award-winning educational, environmental and philanthropic program that engages and inspires students and leads the community in Ponderosa restoration. Three Rivers School 4th grade classes and our Sunriver / La Pine community annually pot 1,300+ seedlings around Earth Day in April. These seedlings become established at our nursery - provided by Sunriver Water & Environmental. After 1-3+ years they are repotted, planted, donated and/or sold at Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory Seedling Sales in April and October. Project Ponderosa’s sales generate $5,000 to $7,000+ annually. All proceeds go to the two participating schools, the Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory and to buy more bare-root Pondo seedlings.

Project Ponderosa Nursery & Volunteers
The nursery is located at the NE edge of Sunriver on Cottonwood Road in the Lake Penhollow Compost facility. The nursery has a 100% volunteer staff! The volunteers are made up of community members and the Life Skills students from La Pine High School (with assistance and supervision by teacher Ken Thorp). Lee Stevenson, who founded Project Ponderosa 15 years ago, is the director of the nursery and program, and is a retired life science teacher and full time Sunriver resident.

Volunteer Position Available
With 3,000 potted seedlings of multiple ages and sizes in the Nursery, there are many projects and tasks that nursery volunteers can help with. Potential volunteers are welcome to visit one of the Thursday work parties to see if they would like to commit to working regularly or semi-regularly.

Time Commitment and Schedule Details
• Most work at the nursery takes place on Thursday from 9am to 1pm during the months of April, May, September, and October.
• A commitment of two mornings per month (2-4 hours per morning) is preferred. Other shifts may be available.
• There is also a commitment once a year for our ‘Pondo Potting Party’ (Apr. 23, 2020)

Typical Tasks (Training / instruction provided)
• Sorting seedlings by health, size and quality
• Basic gardening tasks such as mulching, weeding, pruning, potting, transplanting, etc.
• Assisting students with the potting, repotting and some seedling planting
• Other tasks, which match the abilities and interests of volunteers
• Lifting and moving potted seedlings, water jugs, etc. (~15-20+ lbs)

Preferred Skills
• Ability to follow instructions yet think of solutions to improve efficiency.
• Able to work in varying weather conditions. It can be windy at times.
• Willing to work independently, with a partner or a team.
Benefits / Rewards

- Directly contribute to Project Ponderosa’s core mission of engaging, educating and inspiring Ponderosa restoration in our community.
- Nursery Sales benefit two participating schools, the Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory, our community and our local forests and ecosystem in numerous ways.
- Teamwork; pride in observable short and long term outcomes.
- Volunteers gain an opportunity to add this work to their resume or get Master Gardener credits.

To apply or for more information
Contact Lee Stevenson, Project Ponderosa Founder, Coordinator and Nursery Team Leader

- email: lstevenson60@gmail.com
- cell: 541-604-4300

Visit the website: www.ProjectPonderosa.org