GUIDED BY AN ALASKA NATURE TOURS RANGER, we are training a telescope through the treetops to determine which eagle nests are active, and how many young they contain. As part of the Eagle Nest Survey, our mission in Haines, Alaska, is to collect data concerning the number and health of the year-round population for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For the rest of the day in our role as citizen scientists, we will try to locate infestations of invasive plants so local groups can plan an eradication program, and monitor streams to determine if fish now are able to pass through previously blocked culverts to reach their rearing habitat. This hands-on experience is part of Holland America’s Cruise with Purpose program that lets passengers explore the science behind the scenery and sites in both the United States and Canada for free. Holland America Line Erik Elvejord, director of public relations, says, “I always wanted them to realize that volunteering was fun, and take opportunity – combining traditional tour content with the chance to provide meaningful volunteer efforts,” says Holland America Line Erik Enevold, director of public relations. "I always wanted them to realize that volunteering was fun, and take opportunity – combining traditional tour content with the chance to provide meaningful volunteer efforts,” says Holland America Line Erik Enevold, director of public relations.

Holland American Line offers more than 200 tours in 200 destinations around the world and makes it possible for guests to volunteer as a family and give back is priceless. "Global Volunteers taught her that before you can say 'This is what you need,' you have to first understand their values and culture,” Huff says. A private, nonprofit, non-sectarian and international human and economic development organization founded in 1984, Global Volunteers delivers essential services like construction, child care and educational campaigns in 19 countries on five continents.

The program costs between $995 and $3,000, and has attracted more than 28,000 volunteers from 27 countries. Like the Huffs, 37 percent of volunteers are repeats.

EXPLORE, UNDERSTAND, SERVE Since 2000, Menden, resident Bruce Mitchner, a retired electronics engineer, and his wife, Linda Sekiguchi, a former electronics engineer, and his wife, Linda Sekiguchi, a former electronics engineer, and his wife, Linda Sekiguchi, a former electronics engineer, and his wife, Linda Sekiguchi, a former electronics engineer, and his wife, Linda Sekiguchi, a former electronics engineer, and his wife, Linda Sekiguchi, a former electronics engineer, and his wife, Linda Sekiguchi, a former electronics engineer. Since 2000, Menden, resident Bruce Mitchner, a retired electronics engineer, and his wife, Linda Sekiguchi, a former electronics engineer, and his wife, Linda Sekiguchi, a former electronics engineer, and his wife, Linda Sekiguchi, a former electronics engineer, and his wife, Linda Sekiguchi, a former electronics engineer, and his wife, Linda Sekiguchi, a former electronics engineer, and his wife, Linda Sekiguchi, a former electronics engineer. 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When she retired, volunteering at Colorado’s Rocky Mountain National Park in the Volunteers in Parks program as a Jill-of-all-trades was the perfect fit. She spends about four months, volunteering 12 hours a week in activities like teaching Boy Scouts about exotic plants eradication non-native plant species, and answering telephone questions about VIP. Considered an intern because of her extensive time commitment, Wilmington gets a perk of free accommodations in a park efficiency apartment. “This is my opportunity to protect our national parks,” she says. “I also enjoy meeting visitors and volunteers from other states and other countries.”

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