



Volunteer Opportunities 2013



Natural Resources

Volunteer Tern and Piping Plover Monitors

Number of volunteers needed: open

Description: Volunteers are needed from March through October to assist biologist in a wide range of shorebird protection and management activities on beaches from Eastham to Provincetown. This program is quite physically challenging and includes installing wooden fence posts into the sand to outline nesting areas, installing predator exclosures around piping plover nests, and walking miles of beach monitoring and recording nesting/staging (migrating) activities.

In addition, the seashore is looking for volunteers to “adopt a beach” or a pair of piping plover. Volunteers would assist biologist in monitoring a specific piping plover nest or section of beach through the nesting season. Although this “adopt a beach or nest” project is meant for individuals looking for more flexibility, volunteers would first be trained and would keep in close contact with the shorebird staff.

Time Commitment: variable

Contact: Mary Hake, 508-487-3262, ext. 0511, mary_hake@nps.gov

Volunteer Tern and Piping Plover Monitors, Coast Guard Beach (Eastham) and Hatches Harbor (Provincetown)

Number of volunteers needed: 1 to 6

Description: Volunteers will collect data on human activity and response by terns and plovers at the southern tip of Coast Guard Beach in Eastham, and at the mouth of Hatches Harbor in Provincetown. Work involves counting people, boats, vehicles, and dogs within a specified area every 30 minutes between the hours of noon and 5 PM. In between counts, volunteers will observe nesting and staging shorebirds and note behavior. Training and binoculars will be provided.

Skills required: Volunteers need to be able to walk two miles in soft sand (to the observation points and back) during the heat of the day.

Time Commitment: 2 weekend days per month (need not be consecutive), 6 hours per day minimum from April through August.

Contact: Mary Hake, 508-587-3262, ext. 0511, mary_hake@nps.gov

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Natural Resources *continued*

Marsh Bird Monitor Volunteer (Various Locations)

Number of volunteers needed: variable

Description of work: Assist researchers in development of a long-term monitoring program for marsh birds. Responsibilities include conducting distance-sample point counts and broadcast surveys for secretive marsh birds at predetermined survey points in tidal marshes. Ancillary information on habitat and environmental characteristics will also be gathered during survey visits.

Skills or experience required: Previous experience with bird survey techniques or marsh bird monitoring is helpful but not required. Volunteers must be able to accurately identify marsh bird species by sight and sound and be able to navigate to a pre-determined survey point using a handheld GPS unit and detailed field maps. The ability to carefully follow detailed survey instructions is absolutely necessary to ensure data quality; training will be provided in advance of the field season and mid-season support will be readily available for any questions that arise.

Note that navigating in salt marshes can be physically demanding; volunteers must be able to access survey points safely and be willing to tolerate muddy field conditions and biting insects.

Time commitment: All volunteers are asked to commit to at least 3 survey points. Each point must be surveyed 3 times between 1 May and 15 July, with at least 10 days between visits. Surveys must be conducted during morning hours. It is estimated that a field surveyor could complete up to 10 surveys per morning, though the time needed for travel between points and access to points will vary. All materials (detailed instructions, field maps, datasheets, GPS unit, MP3 player and sound recordings) and training will be provided. Volunteers may wish to use their own binoculars and will need to provide their own vehicular access to field sites.

Contact: Dana Filippini, NPS Marsh Bird Monitoring Coordinator, 401-874-4548, dana_fillippini@nps.gov.

Trail Work - Maintenance

Adopt-A-Trail Volunteer (Parkwide)

Number of volunteers needed: 5 to 6

Description of work: Volunteers work in partnership with Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore to perform minor trail maintenance, such as vegetation trimming, and to report trail conditions. Volunteers work on an as-needed, independent basis at their assigned trails. Occasionally volunteers are requested to participate in a group project, such as installing water bars or building up eroded trails. Some Adopt-A-Trail volunteers also help maintain the seashore's native plant garden at Salt Pond Visitor Center.

Skills or experience required: Trail volunteers walk on uneven surfaces carrying small hand tools. Ability to bend and reach while trimming vegetation is required. Volunteers need to be alert for ticks and poison ivy, both of which are prevalent at many trail locations.

Time commitment: Trails need to be walked twice monthly from April through October, and once monthly from November through March.

Contact: Sue Moynihan, Cape Cod National Seashore Liaison to Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore, 508-957-0738, or sue_moynihan@nps.gov.

Visitor Services - Interpretation (Eastham and Wellfleet)

Volunteer Brochure Delivery Person

Number of volunteers needed: 1

Description of work: This volunteer stocks trailhead brochure boxes from Eastham to Wellfleet, including Fort Hill, Nauset Marsh, Marconi Site, and Great Island areas. Volunteer will also occasionally walk the trails to check conditions. The volunteer uses his/her personal vehicle to travel to the sites (approximately 25 miles per occasion), and on-duty mileage reimbursement at \$.14 per mile is provided.

Time commitment: From late spring to early fall, weekly stocking is necessary, with less frequency needed the rest of the year.

Contact: Brent Ellis, Park Ranger, 508-255-3421 ext. 23, brent_ellis@nps.gov

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Visitor Services - Interpretation (Eastham and Wellfleet)

Volunteer Visitor Center Assistant

Number of volunteers needed: variable

Description of work: Under the direction of the on-duty NPS interpreter, volunteers use informal interpretive skills to provide orientation and guidance to visitors, facilitating an educational, inspirational, safe and rewarding visit. Additional duties include, making reservations and communicating important detailed information for interpretive programs.

Skills or experience required: Strong interpersonal skills with a helpful and friendly demeanor. Willingness to learn and apply specialized communications skills fundamental to the field of interpretation.

General knowledge of the New England area with more specific knowledge of the natural and cultural history of the Outer Cape. Knowledge of park service rules, regulations and safety requirements. This position requires wearing a volunteer uniform (provided).

Time commitment: Year-round, 1 to 2 shifts per week, 4 hours per shift.

Contact: Brent Ellis, Park Ranger, 508-255-3421 ext. 23, brent_ellis@nps.gov.

Visitor Services - Interpretation (Truro and Provincetown)

Volunteer Interpreter, Old Harbor Life-Saving Station

Number of volunteers needed: 5

Description of work: Orient visitors to the 1898 Old Harbor Life-Saving Station located at Race Point Beach, Provincetown, and share the history of Cape Cod's lifesavers. Tell stories, demonstrate knot tying, or other maritime skills.

Skills or experience required: Interest in the US Life-Saving Service or Cape Cod maritime history, good public contact and conversational skills. This position requires wearing a volunteer uniform (provided). Eight hours of training required, dates to be determined.

Time commitment: Minimum 4 hours per week, preferably spring through fall, and minimally mid-June through August.

Contact: Jody Anastasio, Supervisory Park Ranger, (Interpretation) 508-487-2100, ext. 0920, 508-957-0738

Volunteer Visitor Center Assistant

Number of volunteers needed: 3

Description of work: Under the direction of the on-duty NPS interpreter, volunteers use informal interpretive skills to provide orientation and guidance to visitors, facilitating an educational, inspirational, safe and rewarding visit. Additional duties include issuing permits and passes, making reservations and communicating important detailed information for interpretive programs.

Skills or experience required: Strong interpersonal skills with a helpful and friendly demeanor. Willingness to learn and apply specialized communications skills fundamental to the field of interpretation.

General knowledge of the New England area with more specific knowledge of the natural and cultural history of the Outer Cape. Knowledge of park service rules, regulations and safety requirements. This position requires wearing a volunteer uniform (provided).

Time commitment: Position is available May to October, 1 to 2 shifts per week, 4 hours per shift.

Contact: Jody Anastasio, Supervisory Park Ranger, (Interpretation) 508-487-2100, ext. 0920, 508-957-0738.

Visitor Services - Interpretation (Truro and Provincetown) *continued*

Volunteer Interpreter, Seal Education Team, Truro

Number of volunteers needed: 5

Description of work: Provide information to visitors who are viewing seals resting at low tide on a sandbar in Truro. Discuss seal species, natural history, and biology. Encourage compliance with Marine Mammal Protection Act guidelines, such as keeping dogs on leashes and not approaching seals, to ensure seal protection. This position promotes visitor understanding of national seashore resources and protection.

Skill or experience required: Interest in, and ability to research and learn about seals and the marine ecosystem in order to provide accurate information to visitors; prior public contact experience required; ability to converse with a broad range of people and to work as a member of a team; ability to understand multiple perspectives regarding complex issues, and tact in explaining sensitive issues to the public.

This position requires wearing a volunteer uniform (provided); ability to walk in soft sand to haul out site (up to 1 mile each way); and ability to stand in the sun in a hot and humid environment for four hours. Four hours of formal training plus shadowing of experienced volunteers is required.

Time commitment: June through August.

A flexible schedule is helpful, as shift times change daily with the tide. Shifts are four hours each, two hours before low tide and two hours after low tide. A schedule is prepared prior to the season start-up, and volunteers sign up for shifts according to their availability. For continuity, a minimum of three shifts per month is desirable.

Contact: Sue Moynihan, Cape Cod National Seashore Volunteer Coordinator
Email: sue_moynihan@nps.gov.

Group Projects

There are occasional opportunities for organized groups, such as Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts, church groups, school groups, and community organizations to participate in group projects at the national seashore. Opportunities vary, depending on time of year, the needs of the national seashore, environmental conditions, and the interest and ability of the group. Contact Cape Cod National Seashore Volunteer Coordinator Sue Moynihan at 508-957-0738 to discuss these opportunities.