



Volunteer Opportunities 2014



There are many opportunities for people who love the national seashore to help protect its resources, and to share its compelling stories with the public in meaningful ways. Many positions involve interaction with the public and sharing your knowledge with them, or assisting them in having a safe and rewarding national seashore experience.

Positions involving public contact require wearing the volunteer uniform, which will be provided. Training is provided for all positions. Certain positions may require a federal background check.

Visitor and Resource Protection

Visitor & Resource Protection Assistant, Truro and Provincetown

Number of new volunteers needed in 2014: 1

Description of work: The volunteer will assist rangers with the shorebird management program and with the management of the oversand vehicle route. Duties include setting and adjusting beach posts, assisting with shorebird fencing, assisting with area closures, and supporting the overall protection of natural resources along the oversand route. In addition, the volunteer will conduct checks of national seashore bicycle and nature trails, identifying hazards and reporting them to a supervisor for remediation. The volunteer may support other duties, projects, and operations that support national seashore goals, including the opportunity to assist with non law enforcement incidents (i.e. park dispatch, traffic control, visitor assistance, resource incidents, & EMS incidents as allowed with appropriate certifications).

Skill or experience required: Desire to learn about the management of the natural resources, trails, and oversand program of Cape Cod National

Seashore, and an interest in helping the diverse public who visits the national seashore. The ability to hike up to three miles on uneven surfaces, including soft sand, and the ability to ride a bicycle for long distances, including hills, are required. The potential volunteer must have good communication and interpersonal skills. Possession of emergency medical service (EMS) certifications is desirable, but not required. This position requires the wearing of a volunteer uniform (provided).

Time commitment: Flexible--June through August, 2-4 days a week, 3-6 hours a day. A schedule will be drafted to match the availability of the volunteer with the needs of the national seashore. Volunteers seeking an internship for college credit are invited to apply, and the supervisor will work with the intern and school to help fulfill internship requirements.

Contact: Chris Anderson, Park Ranger (Protection), (508) 487-2100 ext 0915, christopher_m_anderson@nps.gov

Natural Resources

Volunteer Precipitation Project Monitor

Number of volunteers: 1-2

Description of work: This position supports a researcher based at Boston University who is studying precipitation at the national seashore. Work involves visiting a salt marsh field research site in Provincetown once a week from mid-March through November 2014 to check the condition of the experimental infrastructure and take basic measurements, such as temperature and rainfall in a rain gauge. Each visit will take 1-2 hours. In addition to the weekly monitoring, the volunteer will have the opportunity to assist with monthly sampling and develop an independent project, if desired.

This is a great opportunity for a high school student, college student, or post-graduate to obtain some research experience in salt marsh ecology and biogeochemistry. Volunteers will receive training from the researcher prior to commencing work. Volunteers must have good attention to detail, be able to hike 2 miles on and off trail in a salt marsh, and must have transportation.

Time commitment: Once a week for at least two months during the period of mid-March through November. Preference will be given to volunteers who can commit for longer than two months. For more information on the project: <http://www.fulweilerlab.com/hollie-precipitationpage.html>

Contact: Hollie Emery, hemery@bu.edu

Volunteer Tern and Piping Plover Monitors

Number of volunteers needed: Open

Description: Assist field staff in monitoring and protecting nesting birds. Activities include installing wooden fence posts into the sand to outline nesting areas and walking miles of beach recording nesting/staging (migrating) activities. This is quite physically challenging and early morning starting times. This position requires wearing a volunteer uniform (provided).

Skills or experience required: Volunteers need to be able to walk 2-3 miles in soft sand (to the observation points and back) during the heat of the day.

Time Commitment: At least one day per week for 8 hours from April – September.

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

Adopt-A- Beach

Number of volunteers needed: Open

Description: Volunteers will “adopt” a beach or a pair of piping plovers, assisting biologists in monitoring a specific piping plover nest or section of remote beach through the nesting season. This project is ideal for volunteers looking for a more flexible schedule. Volunteers would receive training and would then keep in close contact with the shorebird staff.

Skills or experience required: Volunteers need to be able to walk at least one mile (and up to 5 miles) in soft sand (to the observation points and back) during the heat of the day.

Time Commitment: Flexible; prefer volunteers who can commit to 2 days per month (consecutive or not), 4- 6 hours per day, from April through August.

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 - 6

Description of work: 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 5:00 pm. In between counts, volunteers will observe nesting and staging shorebirds and note behavior. Training and binoculars will be provided.

Skills or experience 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) 487-3262 x 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 predetermined 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: 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 - 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

Shorebird Education and Outreach

Shorebird Education and Outreach (Parkwide)

Number of volunteers needed: 14, two per day

Description of work: These volunteers communicate with the public, providing education and information services at shorebird nest sites and visitor access points from Eastham to Provincetown. Volunteers staff a portable shorebird display table with interactive activities and handouts. A spotting scope may be set up to view the nesting/staging shorebirds. This table is an effective tool to educate and engage the visitors about these threatened birds and provide information on what we can do to help in their recovery. Two people are needed to staff the table each day.

Skills or experience required: Strong interpersonal skills with a helpful and friendly demeanor. Although volunteers will be trained by park staff, general knowledge of natural history and shorebirds would be useful. This position requires wearing a volunteer uniform (provided).

Time Commitment: One day per week for 3-7 hours (a good project for couples), from June – August.

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

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Visitor Services - Interpretation (Eastham - Wellfleet)

Volunteer Visitor Center Assistant, Salt Pond Visitor Center, Eastham

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 x 23, brent_ellis@nps.gov.

Visitor Services - Interpretation (Truro-Provincetown)

Volunteer Interpreter, Seal Education Team, Truro

Number of new volunteers needed in 2014: 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, Chief, Interpretation and Cultural Resources Management, (508) 957-0738, sue_moynihan@nps.gov

Volunteer Visitor Center Assistant, Province Lands Visitor Center, Provincetown

Number of volunteers needed: 2

Description of work: Assist visitors at a busy visitor center. Respond to questions about national seashore activities, resources, and facilities, and help visitors match their interests with things to see and do. This position promotes visitor understanding and protection of national seashore resources, and promotes visitor safety.

Skill or experience required: Interest in, and ability to research and learn about national seashore resources, activities, and facilities in order to effectively assist visitors; good public contact ability

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, jody_anastasio@nps.gov

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

Volunteer Interpreter, Old Harbor Life-Saving Station, Provincetown

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. Possibly tell stories, demonstrate knot tying or other maritime skills.

Skills or experience required: Interest in the US Life-Saving Service and 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 2 hours per week, preferably spring through fall, and minimally, mid-June through August.

Contact: Jody Anastasio, Supervisory Park Ranger (Interpretation), (508) 487-2100
jody_anastasio@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.