



Volunteer Opportunities 2016



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.

Natural Resources

You Can Adopt-A-Plover or a Beach

Number of volunteers needed: Open

Description: Volunteers will “adopt” a section of 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. After receiving training, volunteers work on their own, keeping in close contact with the shorebird staff.

Skills required: Volunteers need to be able to walk at least 1 mile--and up to 5 miles--in soft sand (to the observation points and

back) during the heat of the day.

Time Commitment: Days and hours are flexible. Preference is given to 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

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Cut, Pile, and Burn Projects

Number of volunteers needed: Open

Description of work: Work alongside the Cape Cod National Seashore Fire Management Team to assist with resource management goals to reduce wildland fuels, manage the ecological health of open landscapes, and maintain historic vistas. Work involves cutting, piling, and burning brush during the open burn season each winter and spring. Volunteers use hand tools (loppers, clippers and handsaws) to cut vegetation and then build piles from the cut materials to be burned that day or in the future.

Skills or experience required: Ability to follow direction and work as part of a team. Comfortable working with hand tools and working on uneven terrain in field conditions at temperatures between 25 to 65 degrees. Ability to interpret potentially hazardous situations or dangers and report to the on-site work leader.

Equipment to be provided: The park supplies all necessary tools and equipment, including personal protective equipment (hard hat, eye protection, ear protection,

leather gloves, and fire-resistant nomex).

Equipment not provided, but required of the volunteer: Transportation to and from the work site; lunch; sturdy shoes (boots preferred) and layered clothing appropriate for the work environment and necessary for predicted weather conditions. Note: Burn activity has the potential to produce airborne embers. Nylon and polyester clothing may NOT be worn during pile burning. Natural material (cotton, wool) is necessary to prevent injury. Old cotton sweatshirts and jeans work well.

Time Commitment: Tuesdays and Wednesdays in late fall and until the close of open burn season on May 1. The time commitment for any volunteer day is expected to be either 3 or 6 hours. This can be a morning session (9 AM -12 PM), afternoon session (12:30 PM – 3:30 PM) or a full day (9 AM – 3:30 PM). There is no obligation to serve for multiple weeks. Even just a one-time service session is greatly appreciated!

Contact: Emily McDermott, emf69@unh.edu
Dave Crary, David_Crary@nps.gov

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

Shorebird Education and Outreach

Shorebird Protection—Give Them a Break and Much Needed Space

Number of volunteers needed: Open

Description: During the busy summer months, it's difficult for shorebirds to rest and feed on the beaches and mudflats without human disturbance. Volunteers are positioned in areas where young vulnerable shorebird chicks are feeding or where there are concentrations of migrating/staging shorebirds. Through public engagement and education, volunteers use binoculars and field guides to interact with visitors, discussing the importance of allowing shorebirds to rest and feed on beach, and suggesting alternative walking routes to reduce disturbance. This is an excellent opportunity

to share your passion for nature and give shorebirds a much needed break. This position requires wearing a volunteer uniform (provided).

Skills required: Volunteers may need to walk 1-2 miles in soft sand (to the observation points and back) during the heat of the day. Prefer that volunteers bring their own binoculars.

Time Commitment: At least one day per week for 4 hours from June – September. Contact: Mary Hake, 508-487-3262, ext. 0511, Mary_hake@nps.gov

Be the VOICE & Spread the Word - Shorebirds Need Our Help - Staff a Mobile Information Station

Number of volunteers needed: 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 activities and handouts, helping visitors understand threatened birds and how they can help. A spotting scope may be set up to view birds. Two people are needed to staff the table each day.

Skills required: Strong interpersonal skills with a helpful and friendly attitude. Although volunteers will be trained by park staff, general knowledge and interest in 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

Visitor Services - Interpretation (Eastham - Wellfleet)

Volunteer Visitor Center Assistant, Salt Pond Visitor Center, Eastham

Number of volunteers needed: variable

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.

Skills or experience required: Strong interpersonal skills with a helpful and friendly attitude. Willingness to learn and apply communications skills that help build public

understanding of park resources, issues, and themes. General knowledge of the New England area with more specific knowledge of the natural and cultural history of the Outer Cape. 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.

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Visitor Services - Interpretation (Eastham - Wellfleet) *continued*

Volunteer Interpreter, Seal Education Team,
Truro and Eastham

Number of new volunteers needed in 2016:
8

Description of work: Provide information to visitors who are viewing seals resting at low tide on sandbars in Truro and Eastham. 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. 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 regard-

ing 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. Schedules are prepared in advance, and volunteers sign up for shifts according to their availability. A minimum of three shifts per month required.

Contact: Sue Moynihan, Chief, Interpretation and Cultural Resources Management, (508) 957-0738, sue_moynihan@nps.gov

Visitor Services - Interpretation (Truro - Provincetown)

Volunteer Guide,
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 Lifesaving 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

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 pub-

lic 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

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Beech Forest Bird Ambassador,
Provincetown

Number of volunteers needed: 3

Description: Beech Forest is a lovely hardwood forest located along Race Point Road in Provincetown. In spring it is a significant resting spot for migrating songbirds. In summer it is a cool respite from the summer heat. And in fall, it comes alive with vibrant foliage. The Beech Forest Bird Ambassadors will visit the Beech Forest once a week from spring through fall, cleaning up bird seed and bread that well-meaning visitors and residents have left out for the birds, but which is injurious to their health and against park regulations. The ambassadors will also walk trails, sharing their knowledge of birds with visitors, and encouraging them to observe the birds from

a distance and to not feed or attract them.

Skill or Experience Required: Knowledge of migrating songbirds, knowledge or interest in learning about the area's vegetation, ecology, and history. Interest in engaging with the public to help them understand the natural values of the area.

Time Commitment: Once a week, spring through fall, and occasionally in winter

Contact: Sue Moynihan, 508-957-0738, sue_moynihan@nps.gov

Facilities and Maintenance

FMSS Data Entry
Wellfleet

Number of new volunteers needed in 2016: 1

Description of work: The volunteer/intern will assist the CACO Facilities and Maintenance division with data entry related to the comprehensive condition assessments as well as some routine operations data entry. All data entry will be performed in the Facility Management Software System (FMSS) which is an asset and work order management system with many modules, roles and uses. More specifically, the intern will assist with entering asset specification data from written and photo documentation, entering work order data which address asset deficiencies as well as entering cost estimate data into work orders from spreadsheets and other documents. Some familiarity with cost estimating will be helpful

to asset records, estimates, asset types and other numerical data. Ability to effectively communicate verbally and in writing. Perseverance and ability to multi-task and change priorities on occasion. Patience with software systems which are not always completely intuitive or user friendly. Ability to ask questions and seek guidance from staff when any system or data issues arise.

Time commitment: 40 hours/week for 10 weeks

Contact: Karst Hoogeboom, Chief of Facilities and Maintenance
(508)957-0740, karst_hoogeboom@nps.gov

Skill or experience required: Good organizational skills, intermediate computer skills, primarily in data entry, experience working with spreadsheets, ability to perform repetitive data entry with many unique codes, naming conventions and alphanumeric ID's. Ability to identify duplication of data with regards

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Data Entry and Sorting
Wellfleet

Number of new volunteers needed in 2016: 1

Description of work: The volunteer will assist the Chief of Facilities and Maintenance in organizing the park's entries in the NPS Focus image library. The NPS Focus Digital Library is a state-of-the-art digital resource management system which can store images or documents. The NPS Project Management Information System is the primary vehicle for parks to obtain funding for needed projects. NPS Focus Digital library resources can be linked to PMIS projects. NPS Focus allows project proponents to provide photo images to illustrate the need and provide clarity where necessary. The aphorism "A picture is worth a thousand words" describes the purpose of the NPS Focus image library perfectly.

Duties include cataloging current digital images, identifying redundancies and incomplete records, editing and reorganizing file entries and supplementing file entries with additional images and clarifying text information.

Skill or experience required: Good organizational skills, rudimentary computer skills, primarily in data entry and moving from program to program, cutting and pasting files. Ability to see how photos go together with others. An interest in collecting, organizing and inputting photos into a system so they can be quickly and easily retrievable. Perseverance and willingness to wait for files to load and to repetitively enter the same data for different files.

Time commitment: Flexible—year-round, 1-4 days a week, 3-6 hours a day until project is complete.

Contact: Karst Hoogeboom Chief of Facilities and Maintenance (508) 957-0740, karst_hoogeboom@nps.gov

Trail 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

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.