

West Eugene Wetlands Volunteer Opportunities
Education Volunteer

On-the-job supervisors:

WREN Volunteer Coordinator and West Eugene Wetlands Project Manager

Objective:

The primary goal of the Environmental Education Program at the West Eugene Wetlands is to develop a student's understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural history of the West Eugene Wetlands through hands-on learning activities.

Responsibilities:

Education Volunteers will be responsible for preparing materials and leading education activities both in the field at the West Eugene Wetlands, or in a classroom setting. Activity topics include soil studies, watershed explorations, habitat hunts and plant identification. Other responsibilities may include assisting the Education/Volunteer Coordinator in the preparation of the material list for field trips, conducting teacher workshops and special projects.

Qualifications:

No special educational background is required. An Education Volunteer must have a willingness to learn curriculum-based wetlands activities. They must possess the ability to work with adults and enjoy working with elementary school children. It will be necessary to stand for long periods of time and walk over uneven terrain. Programs are presented rain or shine, so it is important to be able to work in inclement weather.

- Volunteers 18 years of age or older must be free from any arrest or conviction of any felony or misdemeanor offense involving violence, sexual or physical abuse of any adult or child, or any narcotic offense. All volunteers must undergo a 4J School District Background Check
- All volunteers must be signed up as volunteers for the Bureau of Land Management.

Training and Preparation:

Field Science Educators are asked to attend at least one training event for volunteers each year. These events are typically held on Saturdays or weeknights in the spring and fall. Trainings will include information on working with children, as well as natural and cultural history background.

- All Education Volunteers will receive a copy of the "Educator's Guide to the West Eugene Wetlands", a resource developed for teachers which contains all activities offered for field trips, pre- and post-activity ideas, background information on the West Eugene Wetlands, and guidelines for working with children.
- Education Volunteers will have access to the WREN library and will be able to research specific topics using library resources.
- Education Volunteers will be given several opportunities to shadow trained WREN educators before leading programs on their own.

Evaluation:

Volunteers are encouraged to meet with the Volunteer Coordinator whenever necessary to discuss situations which may arise on the job. Periodic evaluations will be used to determine if his/her needs and those of the Education Program are being met.

Commitment:

- Education Volunteers are expected to attend at least one training day per season (September-December and March-June).
- Education volunteers are expected to assist in at least two half-day programs per month. Most programs are on weekday mornings.