

DESOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Volunteer Opportunities: Projects and Positions

ADOPT-A-PRAIRIE - Help us establish a demonstration prairie including maintaining interpretive exhibits and periodic weeding at exhibit areas where native plants are featured.

ADOPT-A-TRAIL - Walk trail weekly. Pick up litter on trail and adjacent area, clean signs on trail, prune/clip overhanging or invading vegetation, and restock leaflet boxes. Report major maintenance and signing needs.

AQUATIC BIOLOGY SURVEYS - Assist with routine, year-round monitoring of DeSoto Lake. Data collection includes oxygen level, depth, turbidity, temperature, etc., as well as species composition and distribution of emergent and submergent vegetation. We also need volunteers to do monitoring of water quality of the lake.

ARTIST - Develop artwork for use in refuge brochures, newsletters, lists, etc. Develop graphics for interpretive displays.

AUDIO-VISUAL OUTREACH - Present films and slide shows year-round at DeSoto Visitor Center. Assist in selection of programs for weekend film series. Provide off-refuge presentations.

CLERICAL SUPPORT - Take on a variety of tasks on short notice including typing, xeroxing, folding and envelope stuffing.

COMPUTER - Enter resource management records on computer. Develop programs to assist in varied refuge management areas. Assist in entering Bertrand collection records.

EDUCATION SPECIALIST - Develop classroom materials.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT - Study an assigned historical topic related to the Bertrand, steamboating, or the area. Provide a research paper with documentation that could be published as a monograph or interpretive booklet.

INSECT SURVEY/COLLECTIONS - Collect, identify and preserve insect specimens and identify habitats.

LIBRARY/ARCHIVES - Help maintain the library including historical or museum object conservation references, and photographic files. Assist with development of reference and bibliographical materials on specific topics applicable to the museum collection. Topics could include the history of individual objects, steamboating, and nineteenth century social and economic conditions applicable to the events and circumstances surrounding the Steamboat Bertrand's ascent up the Missouri River.

LITERATURE SEARCH - Search literature to provide refuge with listing of scientific articles related to wildlife or plant associations in Missouri River Valley, Provide literature citing and written summary of articles. Develop/update refuge lists of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fish or plants.

MAINTENANCE AND CARPENTRY PROJECTS - Build nesting boxes, docks and overlooks; plant trees; trim trees; fence repair and boundary posting; maintain boardwalks, and cut fallen trees from trail.

MUSEUM CONSERVATION - Assist curator with the maintenance of museum exhibits and storage areas. Help maintain museum cataloging and archival records. Assist with artifact cataloging including written and photographic documentation.

MUSEUM INTERNSHIP - Qualified university, college and technical trade school students are encouraged to develop projects on a variety of topics relevant to the museum program. These projects can include historical research, exhibit design, conservation, or museum management and administration.

NATURALIST/INTERPRETER - Provide interpretive talks; conduct guided walks and tours; perform roving interpretation along refuge roads, trails, and in picnic areas and other high visitor use areas. Develop new presentations and A/V programs for visitors.

OUTDOOR RECREATION OR HISTORICAL INTERNSHIP - On-the-job training for qualified university students who would benefit from field experience and doing several months of public service.

PHOTOGRAPHER - Accomplish photographic projects to update refuge slide files, record public events and museum projects.

PUBLIC INFORMATION - Assist at visitor center information desk dispensing specific information to visitors, issuing entrance passes and occasionally operating cooperative association sales desk. Act as roving interpreter in visitor center and on trails. Show films and greet tour groups.

PUBLIC USE - Perform random public use surveys and compile data for formulating refuge visitation calculations.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS - Assist in scheduling, organizing and set up and take down of exhibits, including Photography and Art Show and Prairie Appreciation Week.

TAXIDERMIST - Prepare skins for visitor center collection. Prepare quality taxidermy mounts for use in exhibits and special programs.

TEACHER/NATURALIST - Assist with environmental education activities for school groups visiting the refuge. Visit schools, as requested, to present wildlife, environmental education and cultural history programs. Develop programs to be used in school, and educational materials.

WILDLIFE CENSUSING - Assist refuge staff in performing wildlife counts and surveys (particularly waterfowl counts during the migration period) and collect data on number of deer. Provide weekly bird census of DeSoto NWR to post at information desk to assist visitors.