

# Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

## *Job Description for Naturalist Interpreter*



### Qualifications

A background or interest in conservation, natural history, ecology or biology. A college degree or formal education is not necessary. Some birding or botany skills and knowledge would be a plus.

Enjoy meeting and dealing with diverse groups of people and the ability to handle stressful situations involving visitors.

Good public speaking and communication skills.

Ability to clearly understand the purpose of this refuge and its wildlife management programs as well as the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Possess the knowledge or have the ability to learn to operate binoculars, scopes, and tripods.

### Responsibilities

The goal of interpretation is to promote a conservation ethic in visitors by increasing awareness and understanding of the fish and wildlife resource, and the natural environment.

Volunteers may also become involved in the following duties:

- Researching, preparing and presenting interpretive programs such as slide programs, PowerPoint programs and guided walks.
- Cataloging and caring for collections (publications, photographs, specimens and artifacts).
- Assisting with special events such as Youth Fishing Derby, Spring Into Nature, National Wildlife Week, and Adopt-A-Highway cleanups

- Present off-site interpretive programs or staff a table at community events.
- Prepare exhibits or displays.
- Checking trails for vandalism or litter.
- Volunteers will also help protect resources and visitor safety by informing visitors of potential safety hazards, conducting programs in a safe and orderly manner, reporting safety hazards and instances of lawbreaking to refuge staff, and attempting to correct minor infractions through interpretation. Volunteers shall not engage in law enforcement.

### Obligations

Volunteers to complete a training program provided by the staff.

Volunteers to provide their own transportation to and from the job.

Volunteers needs vary throughout the year. Programs are scheduled as needed.

Volunteers report for work on dates and times agreed upon.

### Supervision

Volunteers will be supervised by the FWS public use staff or the Volunteer Coordinator. Initially a staff interpreter will work closely with each volunteer. Once a volunteer feels comfortable, he/she will be permitted to work independently. Work will be spot checked to provide feedback and constructive criticism.

### Effects

Volunteers have frequent contact with other employees and the general public, other Service personnel, and representatives of other conservation agencies and organizations. Most public contacts are to share knowledge, answer questions, or otherwise improve public understanding of the Service, the field station, and environmental issues.

The Volunteer's performance directly affects:

Public understanding of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the station, and environmental problems.

Visitor's safety and comfort, the Service's public image, and the effectiveness, quality and success of operations.

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