



Volunteer Opportunities

Department of Interior/U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
340 Smith Road/ Shirley, NY 11967
Telephone 631-286-0485/FAX 631-286-4003

To apply: Contact Jody DeMeyere at (631) 286-0485 ext. 2131 or jody_demeyere@fws.gov (If emailing, in the subject line, type in your name followed by the position you are applying for. Example: Jody DeMeyere: Visitor Center Assistant).

Three volunteer position descriptions are described below:

- **Visitor Center Greeter and Nature Store Volunteer**
 - **Environmental Education Presenter**
 - **Special Event Worker**
-

Volunteer position Title: Visitor Center Greeter and Nature Store Volunteer

Date Needed: Monday through Saturday, two shifts AM (9-1) and PM (12-4). Sundays may be added in the near future.

Volunteer Opportunity:

Volunteers are needed to assist in operation of the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex Visitor Center and Nature Store. The visitor center is located in a brand new facility on Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley, New York. Volunteer duties include distributing informational brochures, helping to answer visitor's questions, selling merchandise from the gift shop and cleaning displays and facilities (as necessary). Volunteers will have a chance to meet people from all over the country and help visitors enjoy and appreciate the wonderful natural resources of our region.

The ten national wildlife refuge units on Long Island provide nearly 6,500 acres of habitat for migratory birds, threatened and endangered species and other wildlife. From rare grasslands to maritime tidal areas, the habitats are rich and diverse. In addition to Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, other units include Amagansett, Conscience Point, Gardiners Point Island, Lido Beach, Elizabeth A. Morton, Oyster Bay, Sayville, Seatuck, and Target Rock National Wildlife Refuges.

The 13,000-square-foot center is located within an hour's drive of New York City, and it will serve as a hub for visitors to the ten national wildlife refuges on Long Island. Design and construction of the "green" building was funded with nearly \$9.8 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It will serve the greater NYC metropolitan area and visitors to the area. The center features interactive exhibits, an environmental classroom with a wet lab, and a nature store run by the non-profit Friends of Wertheim, Inc. Three miles of new trails originating at the building and two new viewing platforms along the Carmans River will

be created, expanding the refuge's trail system. The center was built to meet the Gold-level certification criteria of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED. It has a number of "green" features, including:

- Water efficient features that will save about 26,000 gallons of water a year;
- A geothermal system that reduces the use of fossil fuels for heating in the winter and cooling in the summer. This energy savings would be enough to heat three medium sized houses and cool one house for a year;
- Flooring made from recycled rubber from old tires and carpeting made of recycled materials;
- Wood trim from plantation-grown trees, helping to preserve wild forests;
- A solar photovoltaic system on the roof that will reduce the building's power consumption.

Training provided: Thorough training in all aspects of visitor center operation is provided to new volunteers. New volunteers will be paired with experienced volunteers at first. Knowledge of Long Island is beneficial but not necessary.

Benefits: An understanding of the National Wildlife Refuge System and public use activities and behind the scenes orientation tours of refuges managed by complex.

Length of Time Volunteers needed: Both short and long term.

Times/Days: Monday through Saturday, two shifts AM (9-1) and PM (12-4). Sundays may be added in the near future.

Number of Volunteers Needed: 1-2 each shift

Would you like the Volunteers to have any special skills, interest, or experience?

Volunteers should have good communication skills, an interest in and ability to learn about area history and natural resources and a desire to share knowledge with visiting public and work with others, including children. Experience with public speaking is beneficial, but not necessary. A flexibility to handle variations in routine due to shifting priorities and visitor needs is appreciated. This position will provide a motivated person the opportunity to spread his/her appreciation of the natural world to many refuge visitors.

Volunteer position Title: Environmental Education Presenter

Date Needed: Various programs throughout school year and during summer camp

Volunteer Opportunity:

We need volunteers to assist refuge staff in leading environmental education programs for local school groups. Programs are currently being developed and will meet New York state standards and curriculum.

Training required or provided: A background in education or interpretation would be extremely helpful. New volunteers will accompany staff members on programs until they feel

comfortable leading. Once both the volunteer and staff member feel comfortable the volunteer may provide programs alone.

Benefits: The chance to instill a sense of natural resource stewardship in local students.

Length of Time Volunteers needed: Long term

Times/Days: Monday – Friday, during the school year. 45 minutes to 4 hours plus travel, weekdays during scheduled summer camps.

Number of Volunteers Needed: A federal government background check is required for volunteers working with children. This expense will limit the number of volunteers we can use in this capacity to those who can make a long term commitment.

Would you like the Volunteers to have any special skills, interest, or experience?

Ability to give presentations in front of a group, people person, love of kids, desire to share your knowledge.

Volunteer position Title: Special Event Worker

Date Needed: Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year

Volunteer Opportunity:

We need volunteers to: staff a variety of education booths and children's craft activities; lead canoe and birding tours; direct parking; other tasks as they arise.

There are currently two confirmed special events in 2012. We expect this number to rise as we become involved with additional partners across the island.

Saturday, May 19 (10:00 - 4:00)

Grand Opening/International Migratory Bird Day

This year the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex will combine our annual International Migratory Bird Day event with the grand opening of our new facility in Shirley, New York. Our annual bird event has grown into a popular family nature event in the area, showcasing the National Wildlife Refuge System and our area wildlife refuges. The event provides a wholesome recreational and educational experience for the whole family. We are inviting over 25 guest exhibitors and speakers, live animals, wildlife crafts and a large number of kid activities related to birds and bird conservation. Admission, parking, and all tours and programs are free.

Many volunteers are needed in every aspect of this event from parking, kids' activities, bird hikes and ensuring the public has a great experience at the event.

Training required or provided: None. Knowledge of Long Island and the ten National Wildlife Refuge units is beneficial but not necessary. Staff and existing volunteers will brief new volunteers on the refuge complex and how to run specific booths and/or activities. In most cases, volunteers will be working with staff members or experienced volunteers.

Benefits: Some events will provide volunteers lunch.

Length of Time Volunteers needed: One time event

Times/Days: Only confirmed date is:

1. Saturday, May 19 (10:00 - 4:00)
Grand Opening/International Migratory Bird Day
Two shifts: 9:30 – 1:00 and 1:00 – 4:30
Many people per shift.

Number of Volunteers Needed: Many

Would you like the Volunteers to have any special skills, interest, or experience?

People person, love of kids, desire to share your knowledge