



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS-VSC/058281

Memorandum

To: Regional Refuge Chiefs, Regions 1-8

From: *Acting* Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System *Cynthia T. Martz*

Subject: Seeking Applications for Friends Partnership Mentoring
(Response due date: December 1, 2014)

I am pleased to announce that the National Wildlife Refuge System is now seeking applications for Friends partnership mentoring from now through December 1, 2014. I encourage all field stations with Friends partnerships to review the attached mentoring application packet and discuss with their Friends organizations if mentoring is a service that can help their partnerships.

The new Friends Partnership Mentoring Program is an outcome of the Refuge System's Conserving the Future, Community Partnerships Implementation Team and directly supports Recommendation 11, to "*develop and nurture active and vibrant friends groups or community partners for every staffed refuge or refuge complex.*"

The purpose of the Friends Partnership Mentoring Program is to help Friends partnerships flourish, and in turn, increase the overall ability of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to carry out its mission effectively. The program will be supported by thirty trained staff and Friends who have made a 3-year commitment to volunteer on the first mentoring teams. The program will enable trained mentors to work closely with refuge staff and Friends board members at a requesting field station. The program is designed to nurture and reinvigorate Friends partnerships in all stages of development, from start-up partnerships in the formative stages to well-established partnerships seeking sustainability and capacity building.

The first round of applications are due December 1, 2014, and will be reviewed for selection and scheduling beginning in early 2015. For more detailed information about the program and how to apply, please see the attached application packet and the Friends Mentoring Action Plan available on the Conserving the Future website at <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/vision/index.html>.

Please contact Ms. Joanna Webb, Division of Visitor Services and Communications, at (703) 358-2392, for additional information on the mentoring program.

Attachment