Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge

Social Services Assistant (YCC Leader) GS-0186-5

Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1930 to protect and manage habitat to support migratory birds, particularly waterfowl, and other wildlife. The Refuge consists of approximately 37,900 acres; however, most of this area is currently located below the surface of the Salton Sea.

The Sonny Bono Salton Sea NWR is in the rain shadow of the Peninsular Ranges; consequently, its climate is generally very hot and dry. Much of the Salton Trough, where the Refuge is situated, is below sea level. These low-lying lands historically provided an area for Colorado River flood waters to flow, resulting in the periodic formation of an extensive freshwater lake known as Lake Cahuilla. Today the area below about 228 below sea level is called the Salton Sea and is maintained as a saline lake by agricultural drainage water. This drainage water comes from about 500,000 acres of very productive Colorado River water-irrigated farmland south of the Refuge. The Imperial Valley is geographically located at the confluence of numerous bird migration pathways as birds fly north and south along the California coast, the Peninsular Mountain Range, California's Central Valley, or the Colorado River corridor through the Imperial Valley and into mainland Mexico. It is in this setting that birds migrate through or winter at the Sonny Bono Salton Sea NWR foraging or loafing in the highly productive wetland and cropland areas of the Refuge.

The position is established to serve as a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Leader for a non-residential YCC program. The employee is responsible for directing a group of four (4) YCC enrollees from the local high school on various and complex projects relating to fish and wildlife habitat improvement and natural resource conservation. The YCC Leader will be directing YCC enrollees engaged in a wide variety of natural resource improvement projects related to natural resource conservation which will include

- Invasive species control/removal;
- Assisting the Equipment Operator and Maintenance Worker with maintenance projects including concrete ditch repair;
- Fence and bench building, trail maintenance, general maintenance work;
- Planning environmental education activities;
- Painting/staining;
- Cleaning and organizing tools and supplies; and
- Other operational duties as assigned.

Minimal Requirements:

- Applicants must have their own transportation to and from the Refuge;
- Have a valid Driver's License;
- Be able to perform field activities with minimal supervision;
- Pass background investigation and pre-employment drug screening.

For more information, please contact Refuge Manager Jonathan Shore at (760) 348-5278 x225 or by email at jonathan_shore@fws.gov

Refuge Website: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sonny-bono-salton-sea