



2018 Volunteer Opportunities

Department of Interior/U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
9311 Groh Road, Grosse Ile, MI 48138
Telephone 734-692-7608/FAX 734-692-7603

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge represents a new model for conservation – one that both restores habitats for fish and wildlife in an urban area through innovative public-private partnerships and that provides a blueprint for bringing conservation to cities across the nation. We are proud to help connect the public to the wealth of natural resources in the Detroit area!

To apply: Contact Visitor Services Manager Jody DeMeyere at (734) 692-7649 or jody_demeyere@fws.gov
(If emailing, in the subject line, type in your name followed by the position you are applying for.)

- 1. Special Event / Community Outreach Volunteer** (*mostly off-site of refuge lands*) - During special events volunteers are needed to: staff a variety of educational booths, children's craft activities and information tables to acquaint event attendees with the refuge. Dependability and ability to handle assignments required. Shifts are usually two to four hours in length.
- 2. Gibraltar Bay Unit Greeter** – Meet and cheerfully greet visitors to the Gibraltar Bay Unit of refuge on Grosse Ile. Provide unit orientations and share your joy for the natural world with visitors. Work period is 1:00PM to 4:00PM on Sundays (*May through October weather permitting*).
- 3. Stewardship Crew** – Volunteers are invited to assist with a variety of habitat management activities including forest rehabilitation (*assisting with selective tree removal with hand saws and loppers, herbicide application, brush management and stacking, and site evaluations*) and invasive species control (*mowing, herbicide application, tree and brush cutting with hand saws and loppers*). This type of work requires heavy physical labor in natural areas and in challenging environments. Participants must be in good physical condition. The work periods are 9:00 AM to noon on Wednesdays and Fridays at Humbug Marsh and Mondays from 9:00AM to noon at the Gibraltar Bay Unit. The necessary tools will be provided.
- 4. Volunteer Speakers Bureau** – These volunteers present programs promoting the refuge in response to community organization requests. Presentations are in PowerPoint format and are usually one hour in length, during daytime and evening hours within the local commuting area. Exceptional public speaking skills, dependability and ability to independently handle assignments required.
- 5. Detroit River Hawk Watch Raptor Volunteer** – If you are a birder and want to put your skills to work, this volunteer position is for you!! During the autumn months, the lower Detroit River becomes a corridor for the passage of migratory birds, and has gained international recognition for the annual volume of birds of prey. Hundreds of thousands of migrating hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures are concentrated at this location where it is possible to systematically count them each year. Detroit River Hawk Watch utilizes

trained volunteers to conduct a standardized count of the fall migration of raptors at the lower Detroit River. Come on down to the count site and learn the skills necessary to become a seasoned counter! Position available September 1 – November 30, each year.

6. **Detroit River Hawk Watch Raptor OUTREACH Volunteer** – If the above position sounds interesting but you are not quite 100% certain your eyes are up for the challenge of counting hawks high in the air, perhaps this position may be more appealing! Our counters would love to chat with the many visitors who stop by the counting site but they need to keep their eyes on the sky to keep an accurate count. This position alleviates this dilemma. Just join the Hawk Watch folks on any count day, ask some questions to learn about their survey methods, and then provide this information to visitors as they stop by to chat. It is the best of both worlds – the counters will keep you up to date on new sightings, you will learn more than you thought possible about hawk migration, and you will have a chance to interact with visitors from all over the world!

 7. **Marketing Assistance Volunteer** – These volunteers establish and maintain contacts with the media to enlist support through media coverage. Assisting with tours for media and community representatives to acquaint them with the refuge. Extraordinary skill in dealing with people and enthusiasm for the refuge units, mission, and programs. Knowledge of social media and marketing techniques is a plus.

 8. **Volunteer Photographer** - Using your own equipment, take photographs of native flora and fauna, special events and refuge staff working in the field. Close ups/Macro photos are preferred. Photographs will become property of the refuge and may be used for outreach materials.
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UPCOMING VOLUNTEER POSITIONS - *We are currently developing lists of those interested.*

9. **Visitor Center Greeter and Nature Store Volunteer** (*Coming soon*) - The refuge's interactive visitor center will be standing in the dark without YOUR assistance! As a Visitor Center Greeter and Nature Store Volunteer, you will help visitors connect to refuge lands through a variety of recreational opportunities. The visitor center will be located in Trenton, MI at the Refuge Gateway property off West Jefferson. If you like interacting with people, both young and old, this is the volunteer position for you! Volunteer duties include: meet and cheerfully greet visitors; provide area and refuge recreation opportunity information; give orientations to the work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge System; assist visitors with refuge rules and regulations; answer telephones; answer visitor questions; respond to visitor correspondences; distribute brochures; and restock brochures. These duties provide volunteers with the opportunity to reach diverse groups of people with a knowledge and appreciation of the environment.

 10. **Fishing Pier Volunteer Monitor** (*Coming soon*) – If you love to fish, tell your fish stories and get others interested in fishing, this is the position for you! In 2018, the refuge will open a new fishing pier that extends 740 feet into the river and connects to a 150-foot-long fishing dike. Refuge visitation is expected to skyrocket with this new amenity. Volunteer monitors will be an added asset to guide people, answer questions and pick up litter. There is NO expectation these volunteers will provide law enforcement coverage, just a welcoming face!
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11. Trail Upkeep Volunteer (*Coming soon*) – At the refuge we strive to keep the trails up to high standards so everyone feels welcomed and comfortable hiking on them. This volunteer position performs all aspects of trail maintenance and construction. Examples of the work could include: mowing grass; clearing brush and fallen logs from trail corridor; trimming overhanging brush; picking up litter; and potentially as we grow constructing new segments of trail and performing rehabilitation and restoration on abandoned or heavily impacted sections of trail. This position will be set up with access to a shed with tools and equipment. This will allow volunteers to “work” when it is most convenient for them. Volunteers may work alone or in groups.

12. Volunteer Maintenance Worker (*Coming soon*) – Assistants will perform light to moderate maintenance work. Duties may include mowing of existing parking lots and around visitor center, light construction or carpentry, litter pickup and general upkeep of refuge property. Volunteers with surveying experience are needed to assist with sign posting and maintenance. Good physical condition and familiarity in using power tools is preferred. Positions will be available year round.

13. Volunteer Gardner (*Coming soon*) – Maintain the flower beds/pollinator garden around the visitor center. Research care of native plants, pull weeds, install plant ID tags, beautify the area, and provide interpretation of the garden(s) to visitors. This is a perfect opportunity for garden clubs.
