

Volunteer Position Description: Wetlands Tour Docent

Goal of position:

To provide tour participants with an enjoyable and informative experience of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) or City of Davis Wetlands

Duties:

Leader: Prior to the tour date, leaders should visit the tour location to determine where water is, where the birds are, and where to stop during the tour. It is also beneficial for leaders to communicate with tour assistants prior to the tour, introduce themselves if necessary and give each assistant a role for the day. Leaders should arrive 15 minutes early and greet everyone. Leaders begin the tour with a welcome and introduction about the tour location and Yolo Basin Foundation. Then, drive as the lead car, determine the stops and talk about relevant structures, birds, land uses, etc. at each stop. Try to talk with everyone on the tour if possible. Leaders are also responsible for ensuring that the tour ends on time.

Assistant: Assist leader with gathering group together, sign-in tour participants, collect donations, share knowledge about wildlife, history, and vegetation, offer materials and information about the Foundation's programs and activities. Assistant docents help set up scopes and direct tour participants' attention to the leader. There should always be a docent bringing up the rear of the tour car caravan.

Supervised by: Volunteer Coordinator

Time Commitment: Lead or assist on a minimum of two tours over the course of the year. YBWA public tours run every second Saturday of the month, October–June and are three hours long. Davis Wetlands public tours run every first Saturday of the month and are 2 hours long.

Qualifications: An interest in wetlands and local species, especially birds, and an enthusiasm for working with the public. Prior knowledge is not required of assistants but leaders should be able to identify common wetland bird species. *All City of Davis Volunteers must apply to be a volunteer through the City of Davis. The application process includes a background check.*

Training: Wetlands Tour Docents participate in a multi-day training. Training covers the establishment, significance and management of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the Davis Wetlands, role of the Yolo Basin Foundation, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the City of Davis, how to lead or assist on a tour, basic interpretation techniques, and an introduction to wetland habitats and common birds. A tour of each location is part of the training. A detailed resource package is provided.

Volunteer Benefits: Being a Tour Docent is an excellent way to observe and enjoy the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Davis Wetlands regularly, while providing an important service to the public unfamiliar with the area. Practice your public speaking skills, increase your knowledge of wetland flora and fauna, and gain experience facilitating public tours.