

# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

### *Volunteer Program*



### Interpretive Naturalist/Guide

**Purpose:** To enhance public awareness of conservation efforts, natural and cultural history, wildlife management techniques, and the USFWS through enjoyable, educational experiences.

### Duties and Responsibilities:



- Research, prepare and present interpretive programs such as Wildlife Excursions/Tours, presentations including talks and slide programs, walks and hikes, children's Wild Wednesday programs, etc. incorporating interpretive techniques such as the use of themes, goals, and objectives, the use of props, meaningful hands on activities, along with safety and resource messages.
- Explain the refuge purpose, history, management objectives.
- Instill a conservation ethic in visitors.
- Assist with special events such as the Fall Festival.
- Mentor and train new interpreters.

- Assist in development of interpretive brochures and exhibits.

### Qualifications:

- Ability to clearly understand the purpose of the refuge and its wildlife management programs as well as the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- An enjoyment in working with diverse groups of people.
- Good interpersonal communication skills with the ability to present a positive image to the public and to articulate information in person.
- Basic knowledge and understanding of nature, ecology, wildlife, plants, and birds or the ability to learn this information.
- Interest and ability to learn the cultural history of the area depending on theme of program.
- Understanding of teaching and interpretive principles.
- Ability to operate binoculars and scopes.
- Ability or willingness to learn how to operate a laptop computer and projector.
- Valid driver's license.



### Training:

- Volunteer Orientation
- Interpretive techniques and Environmental Education teaching techniques and other workshops/courses (Master Naturalist) as needed to enhance skills and background knowledge
- Training through mentors or "seasoned" volunteer interpreters.
- Defensive Driving course, Statement of Responsibility.

**Time Commitment:** 4 – 8 hours/month depending on activity.

**Supervisor:** Park Ranger or as assigned.

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