



Salmon Docent Volunteer Position Description

Position Overview: Volunteer Salmon Docents provide interpretation to the public about spawning chum salmon and about the salmon habitat restoration work done at Bayshore Preserve in Shelton.

Responsible To: Outreach and Education Coordinator, Sarah Croston, sarah@capitolandtrust.org, (360) 819-1459

Key Responsibilities:

- Engage people of all ages in the wonders of the chum salmon run by fostering curiosity, sharing your knowledge, and answering visitor questions
- Help operate underwater cameras
- Fill out program reporting forms and share stories of impact with program coordinators

Initial Impact: Salmon Docents have an important role in fostering connections between people and nature. By volunteering for our outreach programs, you expand Capitol Land Trust (CLT) and Puget Sound Estuarium's ability to engage more deeply with the surrounding community.

Sustained Outcomes:

- Gaining community support for conservation
- Building relationships with community members
- Creating a personal connection to the natural world

Training Provided: A two-hour volunteer training is provided during the evening in mid-October each year. This training covers background information on Bayshore Preserve, salmon biology, interpretation tips and tricks, and program logistics. An optional on-site Bayshore Preserve orientation is provided to gain familiarity with the trails and practice with underwater cameras.

Support: Salmon Docents receive support from CLT and Puget Sound Estuarium staff, who will be on site each program day. Open communication, resource, and knowledge sharing among volunteers and staff is encouraged.

Commitment: Volunteers attend a two-hour training and sign up for at least one docent shift. Day-of commitment is between 2-4 hours, not including drive time to Bayshore Preserve. Volunteers are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from training and program days. There are three salmon docent days.

Skills and Qualifications:

- Willingness to learn and share knowledge about Pacific Northwest salmon and site history
- Willingness to be outside in a variety of weather conditions including rain and wind
- Maintain a positive attitude when working with the public
- Flexibility
- Ability to travel between 600 feet and a half mile on gravel and dirt surfaces

Benefits:

- Gain knowledge and practice with salmon biology, conservation, and interpretation
- Professional references
- Opportunities to meet and get to know others who are interested in the natural world
- Spend time outside and witness salmon behaviors