



Volunteer Position Description

Salmon Docent

Overview: Salmon Docents help visitors learn about spawning chum salmon, salmon habitat, and the restoration work completed at Bayshore Preserve in Shelton, WA. No previous experience with salmon or environmental interpretation is required.

Volunteer Impact: Salmon Docents play an important role in connecting people with nature. By supporting this outreach program, volunteers expand Capitol Land Trust's and Puget Sound Estuarium's ability to engage meaningfully with the surrounding community.

Over time, the program helps:

- Build community support for conservation
- Strengthen relationships with community members
- Foster personal connections to salmon and the natural world

Key Responsibilities:

- Engage visitors of all ages in the wonders of the chum salmon run by fostering curiosity, sharing knowledge, and answering questions
- Help create a welcoming, respectful, and safe experience for visitors and fellow volunteers
- Help set up and take down interpretive stations and program materials
- Help operate underwater salmon-viewing cameras, as assigned
- Provide program feedback and share visitor interactions or stories of impact with program coordinators

Commitment: All Volunteers complete a two-hour training and commit to at least one, two-hour shift per year. Salmon Experience is typically held over three event days, with morning and afternoon shifts available.

Volunteers are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from training and Bayshore Preserve.

Skills and Qualifications:

- Interest in learning about Pacific Northwest salmon and Bayshore Preserve and sharing that knowledge
- Comfort working outdoors in cool, wet, and rainy weather
- Ability to engage with visitors in a welcoming, respectful, and helpful manner
- Flexibility in responding to changing weather, visitor needs, and event conditions
- Ability to move or travel approximately 600 feet to one-half mile over gravel and dirt surfaces, with or without reasonable accommodation

Training and Support: A required two-hour evening training is offered each October and covers Bayshore Preserve, salmon biology, interpretation techniques, and program logistics. An optional on-site orientation allows volunteers to explore the trails and practice using the underwater cameras.

Capitol Land Trust and Puget Sound Estuarium staff are present each event day to support and answer questions. Open communication and information sharing among volunteers and staff are encouraged.

Benefits:

- Gain knowledge and experience in salmon biology, conservation, and environmental interpretation
- Build public-speaking and visitor-engagement skills
- Connect with others who are interested in salmon, conservation, and the natural world
- Spend time outdoors witnessing spawning salmon
- Professional references may be available following successful volunteer service

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Revised 9/9/2026