

Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District

Volunteer Duty Statement

Seal Watch

Sonoma Coast State Park

The purpose of this position is to provide education and guided interpretation of the Goat Rock harbor seal haul-out for the visiting public, thereby reducing incidence of human disturbance of the colony, and to further the mission of California State Parks: “To provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state’s extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.”

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide docent services furthering public education
- Wear provided name badge and California State Parks Volunteer patch while volunteering
- Keep track of volunteer time and record it in Better Impact or report it to the State Parks Volunteer Coordinator, the Stewards Volunteer Coordinator, or the Stewards Program Assistant

Goat Rock:

- Carry equipment and educational materials to the haul-out area at the mouth of the Russian River
- Greet park visitors
- Assist visitors in viewing the harbor seals
- Maintain the ropes, signage, and fencing marking safe viewing distances of the harbor seals while hauled out on the beach

Jenner Boat Launch:

- Set up the outreach table with educational materials
- Proactively engage boat launch users regarding safe viewing practices

Skills and Qualifications:

- Good communication
- People skills
- Willingness to learn about the natural history of the harbor seals and their ecosystem

Time Commitment:

Shifts are three hours long, and at least one shift per month is required during the haul-out season (March through September).

Training:

Seal Watch Training is required and generally occurs in February. Training topics include basic interpretation, marine mammals, and park rules and regulations. Bear in Mind EEO Training is required within 60 days of completing the paperwork and subsequently every two years.

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Reporting:

The supervisor for this program is Visitor Services Program Manager, Tracy Weisberg. The lead for this program is the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods Program Director. Amelia Schall Tůmová is the Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District Volunteer Coordinator (Amelia.Schall@parks.ca.gov).

Benefits:

The main benefit of this program is to learn about the natural and cultural history of the Russian River area while contributing to the health and welfare of the harbor seals and sharing information with the visiting public. As a volunteer with California State Parks, logging 40 hours of volunteer time earns a complimentary district pass, and 200 hours of volunteer time earns a complimentary VIPP statewide pass for the next year. Please contact Amelia Schall Tůmová about reporting volunteer hours and making a plan to receive your pass in a timely manner.

Conclusion:

The relationship between a volunteer and California State Parks must be one of mutual benefit. The Volunteer Service Agreement may be terminated at any time without cause and without advance notice.

If you willingly agree to perform all duties, please sign below.

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State Park Volunteer

Date

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State Park Representative

Date