

Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District

Volunteer Duty Statement

Whale Watch

Sonoma Coast State Park

The purpose of this position is to interpret gray whales and their migration to the visiting public, to interpret other whales present off of Bodega Head, 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:

- Greet Park visitors and assist them in viewing the gray whale migration and other whales viewed along the Sonoma Coast during weekend shifts
- Sign up for shifts using the Teamup calendar on the [www.stewardscr.org](http://www.stewardscr.org) website
- 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

Bodega Head Table:

- Share information at the Bodega Head overlook and information table about the gray whale life cycle and whale watching using gray whale artifacts, the “Whale Watching & Pacific Gray Whale Facts” rack card, and other relevant information and photographs; share information about humpback whales and other whales observed off the Sonoma Coast

Roving Trails South of Bodega Head:

- Walk out onto the trails south and east of the head area in volunteer uniform to provide whale interpretation on the weekends during the 10-2 hours

Skills and Qualifications:

- Good communication skills
- People skills
- Willingness to learn and share knowledge about gray, humpback and other locally observable whales

Time Commitment:

Minimum of four hours per month (January to the end of September)

Training:

Whale Watch Training before first Whale Watch volunteer shift (can watch video of recorded past training), Volunteer Orientation, and Bear in Mind EEO Training within 60 days of starting and subsequently every two years. A Whale Watch Coordinator is on duty each shift during the Whale Watch season and will notify scheduled volunteers if the shift is cancelled due to bad weather.

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](mailto:Amelia.Schall@parks.ca.gov)).

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Benefits:

Learn about the natural history of gray whales and enjoy watching and helping visitors to Bodega Head watch them on their migration. Learn about humpback and other locally observable whales and help the public spot and learn about them. 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