

INTERPRETIVE HOST Opportunities



JOB TITLE: Park Host (Visitor Services, Interpretative Support)

DESCRIPTION:

Provide assistance to park interpretive staff with emphasis on interpreting the area's natural and cultural resources, environmental education, visitor safety, and resource protection.

DUTIES:

Hosts perform the following services during the winter, summer, and fall months:

- Provide orientations for visitors entering the intertidal area. These Intertidal orientations enable visitors to utilize low impact skills while exploring the fragile intertidal area.
- Greet visitors at the lighthouse. Provide lighthouse orientations, informal interpretation, and issue tickets for lighthouse tours.
- Provide visitors with area information at the Interpretive Center desk.
- Hosts who have attended the Yaquina Head interpretive training course (offered in June) also lead formal costumed interpretive tours of the lighthouse and provide interpretive presentations at the ocean observation decks.

During the spring months hosts who enjoy teaching youth may elect to assist in the park's education programs. Each spring, park rangers and volunteers lead environmental education activities for thousands of elementary school students who visit Yaquina Head's tidepools and lighthouse.

QUALIFICATIONS:

All volunteers must show a willingness to work and get along with a wide variety of co-workers and visitors. A genuine desire to insure that each visitor has an enjoyable experience at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area is essential.

COMMITMENT:

Volunteers must be flexible enough to handle variations in work routine caused by weather, shifting priorities, tides, and visitor needs. Host couples will usually be scheduled to work the same shifts. However, they may not always be located at the same facility. One partner may be staffing the lighthouse while the other is at the interpretive center.

Duty hours normally occur during daylight hours. However, on occasion, hosts may be scheduled to work at special evening events and split shifts. Hosts almost always work weekends and holidays.

Volunteers who work in the intertidal area must be able to climb the 140 stairs that descend from the parking lot to the Cobble Beach tidepools. Volunteers who work at the top of the lighthouse will need to be able to ascend and descend the 109 stairs two to five times each day.

Spring and summer hosts will attend a one to two week staff training that focuses upon interpretive/education skills, intertidal ecology, and lighthouse history.

COMPENSATION:

An RV campsite with a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean is provided free of charge for hosts. The three modern RV sites have complete hookups (50 amp, 35 amp, 110 volt, sewer, telephone), and picnic tables. Each site can accommodate a 45' RV plus a tow vehicle.

AREA INFORMATION:

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (YHONA) is a 100-acre day-use area managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The park is located on a prominent headland just three miles north of Newport, on Oregon's scenic central coast. Nestled comfortably between the Pacific Ocean and the Coastal Range, the city of Newport offers the amenities of its larger counterparts including a new recreation center, performing arts center, and visual arts center, within the relaxed atmosphere of a small coastal town.

Through out the year visitors come to view harbor seals and the tide pool life at Cobble Beach and Quarry Cove - the nation's only wheelchair accessible tide pool area. Over 20,000 seabirds nest during the spring and summer on the headland's cliffs and near shore rocks. California Gray Whales can be observed migrating during spring and early winter, but sightings have been seen at other times of the year. The Yaquina Head Lighthouse, at the tip of the headland, has been functioning as a navigational aid since 1873. The lighthouse and interpretive center are open year-round. Visitation is over 330,000 a year.

DATES:

Host opportunities are available year round.

Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall 2004: June through September. Each host contributes 20 hours/ week (five days at 4 hours/day).

Spring, Winter, and Fall 2005: Each host contributes 24 hours per week. (May be either 5 days/week or 4 days/week).

Summer 2005: Each host contributes 32 hours/ week (four days at 8 hours/day). Beginning in 2005, a three-month minimum commitment (mid-June through mid September) will be required during the busy summer season.

HOW TO APPLY:

Call or write for an application. Send completed application to Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area. Applications may also be completed on-line by downloading the Volunteer Application from the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area web site at <http://www.or.blm.gov/salem/yaquina>. Interviews are conducted over the phone and references will be checked.

THE INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM MISSION:

The Bureau of Land Management is currently expanding its interpretive program at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area. Through this expansion, we seek to further utilize the area's unique natural and historic resources to provide a broad spectrum of interpretive opportunities that inform, inspire, and involve a diverse public in the stewardship of coastal resources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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