



EDUCATION RESTORATION COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Join the 2018 Volunteer Paddle Team

The position: Each year the [Columbia Slough Watershed Council](#) hosts dozens of educational paddling events that expose adults and children to the wonders of the Columbia Slough watershed. We're seeking novice to advanced paddlers to assist with our evening paddles, Slough School youth paddles and summer festivals.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Assist staff members with canoe and kayak-based education and recreation activities
- Lead and support volunteers in the paddling area at events
- Facilitate safe, inclusive on-water activities with youth and adults
- Perform routine maintenance on boats and paddling equipment

Why the paddle team matters: As a member of the Paddle Team you will be contributing to a growing program that strives to engage communities in Fairview, Gresham and Portland to learn about, enjoy, and assist with restoration efforts of their local watershed and natural areas.

Volunteer Benefits:

- Paddle skill building practice and experience
- Increased knowledge of our local natural areas, plants, and wildlife
- Personal and professional development opportunities
- Help address the lack of racial diversity in environmental conservation and outdoor recreation
- Help raise profile of watershed restoration and protection efforts
- Community connection building opportunities
- Opportunities to connect with local officials and experts
- Training and certification by the American Canoe Association
- Discounts to Next Adventure rentals and classes, including beginner to advanced on the water trainings

Time commitment:

Volunteers are expected to **commit to a minimum of 5 programs** over the paddle season (May through September; see program dates below). Alternative substitutions include leading a private paddle tour, attending a community festival to conduct outreach with Council staff, and/or assisting with event preparation and logistics.

Before serving, volunteers attend two orientation sessions. Before orientation, volunteers complete a short, informal interview with the Council's Volunteer Coordinator.

- Training Session 1: **Thursday, April 19th, 2018**, 6:00pm – 9:00pm
- Training Session 2: **Sunday, April 22nd, 2018**, 9:00am – 1:00pm - Paddle Team members will be asked to sign up for a minimum of 5 programs on the second training day.

PADDLE TEAM EVENTS CALENDAR ON LAST PAGE

Minimum Qualifications

- Novice to advanced canoeing and kayaking skills
- Strong communication, teamwork and leadership skills
- Able to work in variable outdoor conditions, sometimes cold and/or rainy and dark
- Able to take direction and initiative
- Able to lift 40 pounds overhead
- Willingness to learn and contribute to conversations and our work in engagement with equity and inclusion practices

Preferred Qualifications

- Ability to communicate in another non-English language that is spoken in the watershed such as Spanish, Vietnamese, Laotian, Russian, Somali
- Interest in local flora, fauna and water quality issues
- Affinity for sharing natural history of the Slough and the watershed
- Familiarity with Fairview, Gresham, N/NE Portland waterways
- Certified in CPR and basic first aid

Location and Transportation: Many events take place at Whitaker Ponds Natural Area though programming also takes place at a variety of other locations across the watershed. Volunteers are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the event site. Sites are generally accessible by car, bus, and bike.

Interested? Please send a brief letter of intent (1-2 paragraphs) about why you're interested in this position to Volunteer Coordinator Kirk Fatland at volunteer@columbiaslough.org or to 7040 NE 47th Ave, Portland, OR 97218. Include your name, email address and phone number.

About Us:

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council, a nonprofit tax-exempt organization, is a diverse group of stakeholders working to protect and enhance the Columbia Slough and its watershed through community engagement, education, and restoration. For more information you visit us at www.columbiaslough.org

Paddle Team Season Event Dates:

Minimum commitment of **5 programs** over the 5 month paddle season (May - September). Alternative substitutions include leading a private paddle tour, participating in a trash monitoring paddle, attending a community festival to conduct outreach with Council staff, and/or assisting with event preparation and logistics**

Program	Month	Date	Day	Time	Location	Description
Paddle Team Training Part 1 (*Required)	April	19	Thur	6 - 9 pm	Whitaker Ponds 7040 NE 47th Ave	Team training for paddle volunteers
Paddle Team Training Part 2 (*Required)	April	22	Sun	9am - 2pm	Whitaker Ponds 7040 NE 47th Ave	Team training for paddle volunteers
Bring Your Own Boat Paddle	April	10	Tues	5:30 - 7:30pm	Smith & Bybee Wetlands 5300 N Marine Drive	group trip for canoe & kayak owners
Evening Canoe the Slough (Spring)	May	3	Thur	5 pm - 8pm	Whitaker Ponds 7040 NE 47th Ave	guided tour with bimiran Council canoes
Slough School Canoe Weeks	May-June	21-1	Wed-Fri	7:30am-4pm	Varied	Bimiran and canoe trips with our Slough School program
Explorando el Columbia Slough	June	30	Sat	1pm - 5pm	Colwood Golf Course 7313 NE Columbia Blvd	Spanish-English family nature festival
Great Slough Clean Up	July	21	Sat	9pm - 12pm	TBD	Trash removal event - via canoes
Moonlight Paddle	July	27	Fri	9am - 11pm	Kelley Point Park N Kelly Point Park Rd	guided tour of slough for canoes & kayaks
Columbia Slough Regatta	August	5	Sun	10am - 1pm	St. Johns Boat Launch	paddling festival on the slough
Ladies Lunchtime Paddle	August	30	Thurs	10am - 1:30pm	PWB Launch 16650 NE Airport Way	guided tour of slough for canoes & kayaks
Aquifer Adventure	September	15	Sat	12pm - 4pm	PWB Launch 16650 NE Airport Way	pirate-themed family groundwater festival
Evening Canoe the Slough (Fall)	September	27	Thur	5 pm - 8pm	Whitaker Ponds 7040 NE 47th Ave	guided tour with bimiran Council canoes

**Notes on alternative program substitutions:

- Private paddle dates are scheduled on individual and partner organizations availability.
- Community outreach events include: Rock the Block, Alder Creek Paddle Fest, street fairs, and Sunday Parkways. Transportation-related costs are covered by the Council for these events.