



# Join the 2019 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
- 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, May 2nd, 2019**, 6:00pm – 8:30pm
- Training Session 2: **Sunday, May 5th, 2019**, 9:00am – 2:00pm - 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
- Experience working with traditionally underrepresented communities or communities of color
- 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 fill out the [Paddle Team Application here](#). Please contact Kirk Fatland at [volunteer@columbiaslough.org](mailto:volunteer@columbiaslough.org), (503) 281-1132 with any questions.

**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](http://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 (event time not shift time)	Location	Description
Paddle Team Training Part 1 (*Required)	May	2	Thur	6 - 8:30 pm	Whitaker Ponds 7040 NE 47th Ave	Team training for paddle volunteers
Paddle Team Training Part 2 (*Required)	May	5	Sun	9am - 2pm	Whitaker Ponds 7040 NE 47th Ave	Team training for paddle volunteers
Evening Canoe the Slough (Spring)	May	23	Thur	5 pm - 8pm	Whitaker Ponds 7040 NE 47th Ave	guided tour with bimiran Council canoes
Slough School Canoe Weeks	May	20-31	Mon-Fri	7:30am-4pm	Varied	Bimiran and canoe trips with our Slough School program
Explorando el Columbia Slough	June	22	Sat	1pm - 5pm	Colwood Golf Course 7313 NE Columbia Blvd	Spanish-English family nature festival
Moonlight Paddle	July	13	Sat	9pm - 11pm	Kelley Point Park N Kelly Point Park Rd	guided tour of slough for canoes & kayaks
Great Slough Clean Up	July	20	Sat	9pm - 12pm	TBD	Trash removal event - via canoes
Columbia Slough Regatta	August	11	Sun	10am - 1pm	1880 Ne Elrod Dr.	paddling festival on the slough
Aquifer Adventure	September	14	Sat	12pm - 4pm	PWB Launch 16650 NE Airport Way	pirate-themed family groundwater festival
Bring Your Own Boat Paddle	September	23	Thur	5 pm - 8pm	Whitaker Ponds 7040 NE 47th Ave	Guided paddle on the Slough no bimirans

### \*\*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.