



Slough School Education volunteer

Help a child experience the wonder of the outdoors! If you enjoy time in the outdoors and working with children, this is a great opportunity for you!

The Position: Slough School education volunteers assist with stewardship projects (native plantings, mulching, invasive species removal), water quality investigations, and natural history tours for students in the Slough School program. Volunteers first take on a shadowing role observing a staff educator and assisting with behavior monitoring and group management. Once volunteers establish familiarity with the flow of programming, they have the opportunity to lead activities and experiment with teaching/communication styles.

Slough School: Slough School is the K-12 education program of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. It serves students who reside within and/or attend school within the boundaries of the Columbia Slough Watershed in North and Northeast Portland. Slough School students participate in classroom programs, field science experiences, and service learning projects. Volunteers primarily serve during our elementary field science experiences, many of which take place at the Whitaker Ponds Nature park in NE Portland.

Your commitment: The Council requests **weekly volunteering during the Fall season** (October – December). Volunteers will have the opportunity to select a consistent weekday to meet this requirement. Volunteers will have the option of continuing on into the Winter season (January – March).

Volunteer Interviews: All volunteers must complete an informal interview over the phone or in person. Fall season interviews will start Wednesday, September 21st through Friday, September 30th.

Orientation: All new volunteers must attend an orientation on **Saturday, October 1st from 9:00am – 12:00pm**.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assist with preparation of field studies and stewardship activities for schools in the Columbia Slough watershed
 - Activities include nature hikes, aquatic macroinvertebrates, water chemistry, and plant identification
- As directed by staff, provide direction and supervision to students during field programs
- Support staff with preparation and supervision of on-site stewardship projects with students including: tree/shrub planting, invasive plant removal, and general site maintenance
- Perform routine maintenance on Slough School program equipment

Qualifications:

- Interest in field-based science education
- Strong communication, teamwork and leadership skills, dependable and punctual
- Interested in local flora, fauna and water quality issues
- Able to take direction and initiative



- Able to work in cold, wet outdoor conditions

Location and Transportation: Most events take place at Whitaker Ponds Natural Area (7040 NE Columbia Blvd Portland OR). 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 accessible by car, bus, and bike.

Volunteer Benefits:

- Training and experience with science education and outdoor leadership
- The opportunity to meet many new people and help be a part of enhancing the Columbia Slough Watershed!
- Community connections

Interested? Send a brief (1-2 paragraph) letter of intent explaining your interest in this volunteer position to Slough School Educator Amira El-Cherbini amira.el-cherbini@columbiaslough.org or call (503) 281-1132 for next steps. **Please include your full name, email address and phone number.**

About Us:

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council, a non-profit tax exempt organization, is a diverse group of stakeholders working to restore and enhance the 60 miles of waterways known as the Columbia Slough, located in Portland, Gresham, and Fairview. For more information you can visit our website at www.columbiaslough.org