



Slough School Education Assistant

Help a child experience the wonder of the outdoors!

The Position: Education assistant volunteers assist with student stewardship projects (native plantings, mulching, invasive species removal), water quality investigations, and natural history tours for students in the Slough School program. Most activities take place at Whitaker Ponds Nature Park in NE Portland. If you enjoy time in the outdoors and working with children, this is a great opportunity for you! With the support of experienced outdoor educators, you'll help bring outdoor, experiential education to students within the beautiful Columbia Slough Watershed.

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 North East Portland. Slough School students participate in classroom programs, field science experiences, and service learning projects.

Your commitment: Volunteers are expected to commit to 1-2 programs every two weeks (weekly volunteering is preferred) January through March 2015, with the option of continuing during the Spring session (April – June, 2015).

Volunteer Interviews and Orientation: All volunteer must complete a short, informal interview. Orientation and training is unique to each volunteer. Please contact us for more information.

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
- Able to lift 30 lbs overhead

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 Volunteer Coordinator Hanna Davis at hanna.davis@columbiaslough.org or call (503) 281-1132 for next steps.

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