

# Volunteer Opportunities at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area



***Get involved in satisfying and educational hands-on wildlife conservation projects.***

Volunteers at Gray Lodge participate in a variety of special projects, most of which involve working outside through the year. Learn about the volunteer opportunities in the descriptions below.

## **Gray Lodge Clean-Up Day (annual event, spring)**

This annual event offers an opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts to give back to Gray Lodge through several predetermined maintenance projects. Upon arrival, participants choose a group project led by a Gray Lodge employee. All family members are encouraged to participate. This is a great way to participate in a conservation project, meet the staff and, most importantly, improve the quality of wildlife habitat and the public experience.

## **Wood Duck Nest Box Program (March – July):**

Sign up for this exciting wildlife field study. As one of the longest running volunteer programs of its kind, participation is open to the public, ages 18 and over. A pre-season orientation meeting for this season-long program is held in March. Commitment to this project generally requires participation twice a month, April through July.

Volunteers in small teams collect data used to understand and enhance the local wood duck population and other wildlife. Teams also make habitat improvements around each box site which help improve nesting success. Nest boxes are located on parts of the wildlife area with very little public use during breeding season. This field project remains one of the most popular volunteer opportunities.

Nest box programs increase public awareness of the interrelationships of habitat preservation and wildlife survival. They provide an opportunity for the public to participate in a hands-on wildlife conservation project which fosters a personal sense of stewardship. They also increase viable nesting sites for many species of federally protected cavity nesting wildlife.

### **Education Program (October – February):**

Become a leader in nature study on the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. Children's stationed educational programs are held on Tuesday mornings. This program takes groups through the discovery of birds, mammals, invertebrates, and vegetation. A training seminar for this season-long program is held in September. Commitment to this project generally requires participation twice a month, November through February.

### **Docent Program (October – February):**

Become a docent, teaching the public about the value of California's wetlands and Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. Docents assist with visitor registration, gathering statistics and providing visitors with the tools needed for a great experience. Many educational fairs and events are partially staffed with volunteers. It is fun and rewarding to share your knowledge as well as learn something new. No experience is necessary, since the mentor system allows for a wide range of expertise in this season-long opportunity.

### **Other Volunteer Services**

There are many opportunities for general field work and facilities maintenance. Volunteers at Gray Lodge participate in a wide range of on-site enhancement projects, including vegetation management, trail maintenance and light repairs. This is a necessary and valued part of maintaining a Wildlife Area for the wildlife and the public.

### **Volunteer Now!**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife invites your participation in these varied and worthwhile programs.

Each of us has a unique personality, varied pursuits and fundamental skills and knowledge. No matter what your interest, volunteering is an important way to support our resources and experience nature.

For more information, call the Gray Lodge Naturalist Office at (530) 846-7505 or email [Lori.Dieter@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Lori.Dieter@wildlife.ca.gov).