



California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) North Central Region Volunteer Opportunities

Are you a life-long learner with a passion for nature and an eagerness to share that passion with diverse audiences?

Look no further than CDFW's own North Central Region volunteer program! We are looking for dedicated outdoor enthusiasts to help our North Central Region steward California's biodiverse ecosystems by encouraging and facilitating meaningful, inspiring, and educational experiences.

Our **volunteers regularly interact with the public and support staff** at events, educational programs, and the Visitor Center. Must be 13 years of age or older and able to support 6 volunteer hours per month during peak season.

We are looking for volunteers that are:

- comfortable speaking in front of groups
- work well both independently and with others
- actively seeking out opportunities to gain insight & knowledge

Please see the following for the volunteer opportunities we offer. If interested, please complete this [interest form](#) or reach out to our volunteer coordinator at interpretiveservices@wildlife.ca.gov.

Nimbus Fish Hatchery Visitor Center

Located in eastern Sacramento County, Nimbus Fish Hatchery raises Chinook salmon and steelhead trout to release into the American River. Working together with hatchery staff, the Visitor Center inspires and educates guests on how CDFW, education programs, and the public can help conserve these vital aquatic species and the habitat in which they live.

Volunteer Positions

- **Greeter:** Welcome visitors and groups to the hatchery, answer general questions, and provide directions and information.
- **Landscape Maintenance:** Assist with grounds maintenance. Activities may include pulling weeds, pruning plants, spreading mulch, and other special projects.
- **Visitor Center Upkeep:** Assist with cleaning and general maintenance. Activities may include dusting, vacuuming, restroom maintenance, wiping down displays, trail maintenance, and other special projects.

Fishing in the City (FIC)

With clinics throughout the Sacramento metropolitan area, the Fishing in the City program (FIC) offers aspiring anglers, 5-15 years of age, fishing education opportunities which provide the tools and knowledge to hone their craft and work alongside community partners to support their local parks' lakes, ponds, and streams.

Volunteer Position

- **Clinic Volunteer:** Assist with set-up and take-down of FIC pop-up tents, equipment, tables, chairs, and outreach props. Support clinic participants by answering general questions, providing basic angler assistance, and guiding transitions between stations. May include helping to rig rods, bait hooks, tie knots, briefing on the importance of safe and sustainable fishing practices, and assisting with netting catches.

Nature Bowl

Covering regions throughout the Sacramento Valley, Delta, and Sierra Nevada foothills and mountains, Nature bowl is an exciting, science-based, nature-filled team competition for 3rd through 6th graders. Each year, from March through May, student teams participate in several ecology activities to bolster a love of natural history, conservation, and the essential biodiverse landscapes in which we live and enjoy.

Volunteer Position

- **Nature Bowl Volunteer Judge:** Alongside staff and event coordinators, assist with set-up and take-down of event activities, tables, chairs, pop-up tents, outreach props, and equipment. Welcome participants and answer general and wayfinding questions. Assist with the facilitation of Nature Bowl stations. May include asking activity questions, officiating performances, and helping with overall functionality of the event.

North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve (NTMER)

Atop of basalt mesa, just northwest of the Oroville Dam, North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve (NTMER) houses a variety of breathtaking natural features including spectacular spring wildflower blooms, waterfalls, lava outcrops, and rare Northern Basalt Flow Vernal Pools in which those wildflowers bloom. Visitors may explore NTMER via hiking and wildflower and wildlife viewing.

Volunteer Positions

- **Greeter:** Welcome visitors into the ecological reserve, provide wayfinding and directions, and answer general questions. Ensure visitor safety by informing visitors of potential hazards while on trail and abiding by CDFW ecological reserve regulations while out.
- **Trail Rover:** Assist with maintenance of trails and landscape by picking up trash and informing staff of hazardous materials on or near trails. Provide wayfinding and answer general questions while on trail. May involve traversing uneven terrain.

Swan Tours

Exploring a 23,000-acre expanse of privately-owned rice fields and restored habitats (also known as District 10) within Yuba County, CDFW's Swan Tours seek to share knowledge and enthusiasm towards the elegant and stately Tundra Swans of the Central Valley. Saturdays 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., November through mid-January, CDFW naturalists will lead a 2-hour caravan tour to explore the more than 100,000 tundra swans winter migration stop along the Pacific Flyway.

Volunteer Position

- **Sweep Position Volunteer:** Act as rearmost vehicle or sweep position vehicle within the caravan. Ensure guests remain with the group for the remainder of the tour. May include wayfinding and speaking through a walkie-talkie while in a moving vehicle.

Other Events

Throughout the year, CDFW hosts a variety of outreach and educational programming for local schools and organizations. Many of these events highlight California's North Central Region's terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna and may involve transport and specimen and facilitation of interactions with them and assisting with wildlife and nature-themed activities.

Volunteer Position

- **Special Event Volunteer:** Work alongside staff to set-up and take-down outreach materials. Provide support and guidance to individuals to help them further engage with the outreach programming. Answer general questions and supply basic event assistance. May include aiding children preschool to 12th grade.