

# INTERPRETIVE HOST POSITION DESCRIPTION & APPLICATION



**JOB TITLE:** Interpretive Host (Visitor Services, Interpretative Support)

## POSITION OVERVIEW:

Provide assistance to park interpretive staff with emphasis on interpreting the area's natural and cultural resources, environmental education, visitor safety, and resource protection.

**Summer:** Three month commitment. June through Labor Day weekend.

**Sept. through April:** Minimum two month commitment during the first year of hosting at Yaquina Head; one month commitment for returning hosts.

## DUTIES:

Hosts perform the following services during the winter, summer, and fall months:

- Provide orientations for visitors entering the intertidal area. These intertidal orientations enable visitors to utilize low impact skills while exploring the fragile intertidal area.
- Greet visitors at the lighthouse in replica 1885 clothing. Provide lighthouse orientations, informal interpretation, and issue tickets for lighthouse tours.
- Provide visitors with area information at the Interpretive Center desk.
- Assist in the park's tide pool education programs offered each spring.
- Provide informal interpretation of viewable marine mammals and sea birds while staffing "interpretive tables" located at outdoor viewpoints within the park.
- Hosts who have attended the Yaquina Head interpretive training course (offered in June) also lead formal costumed interpretive tours dressed in 1880s reproduction clothing of the lighthouse and provide interpretive presentations at the ocean observation decks.

## QUALIFICATIONS:

All volunteers must show a willingness to work and get along with a wide variety of co-workers and visitors. A genuine desire to insure that each visitor has an enjoyable experience at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area is essential.

Must be able to climb the 140 stairs that descend from the parking lot to the Cobble Beach tide pools.

Must be able to ascend and descend the 110 stairs within the lighthouse two to five times each day

## DUTY SCHEDULE:

Volunteer Hosts must be flexible enough to handle variations in work routine caused by weather, shifting priorities, tides, and visitor needs. Host couples will usually be scheduled to work the same shifts. However, they may not always be located at the same facility. One partner may be staffing the lighthouse while the other is at the interpretive center.

Duty hours normally occur during daylight hours. However, on occasion, hosts may be scheduled to work special evening events and split shifts.

Hosts almost always work weekends and holidays.

Each adult host living on-site will be expected to work a minimum of 25 hours per week depending on visitation and weather. (Five days at 5 hours/day)



Hosts are typically stationed for 4 to 5 hour shifts at the lighthouse or Interpretive center. Additionally, hosts may assist rangers at the whale observation deck, harbor seal observation deck, or tide pools.

Hosts working in the tide pools will find their shifts vary from one day to the next because the timing of low tides changes about an hour each day.

#### COMPENSATION:

An RV campsite with a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean is provided free of charge for hosts. The three modern RV sites have complete hookups (50 amp, 35 amp, 110 volt, sewer, telephone), and picnic tables. Each site can accommodate a 45' RV plus a tow vehicle.

#### SUPERVISION:

Hosts are supervised by the on-site volunteer coordinator. The volunteer coordinator will arrange the duty schedules, training, and performance evaluations of the hosts.

#### PARK AREA INFORMATION:

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (YHONA) is a 100-acre day-use area managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The park is located on a prominent headland three miles north of Newport, on Oregon's scenic central coast. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Coastal Range, the City of Newport offers the amenities of its larger counterparts including a new recreation center, performing arts center, and visual arts center, within the relaxed atmosphere of a small coastal town.

Like much of the Pacific Northwest Coast, winters at Yaquina Head are generally cool, wet, and windy. Storm-watching attracts many visitors to the Oregon Coast during the winter. However, the park rarely experiences freezing temperatures, and has not seen snow or ice in several years. Summers are generally dry with daily periods of fog, sun, and afternoon winds.

Throughout the year visitors come to view harbor seals and the tide pool life at Cobble Beach and Quarry Cove - the nation's only wheelchair accessible tide pool area. More than 65,000 seabirds nest during the spring and summer on the headland's cliffs and near shore rocks. California gray whales can be observed migrating during spring and early winter, but sightings have been seen at other times of the year. The Yaquina Head Lighthouse, at the tip of the headland, has been functioning as a navigational aid since 1873. The site is open year-round. Visitation is 350,000 a year.

#### THE INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM MISSION:

The Bureau of Land Management is currently expanding its interpretive program at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area. Through this expansion, we seek to further utilize the area's unique natural and historic resources to provide a broad spectrum of interpretive opportunities that inform, inspire, and involve a diverse public in the stewardship of coastal resources.

## **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

# YAQUINA HEAD OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA VOLUNTEER APPLICATION – GENERAL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (or message phone): \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code Phone Number

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Available dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Days of the Week: (circle those that apply) Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Are you employed? Y ( ) N ( ) Occupation of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Employment History

Interests:

(circle) those areas in which you are interested in working)

Interpretive Center, Lighthouse, Tide Pools. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any health condition(s) that you have which we should be aware of?

Y ( ), N ( ) If yes, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, PLEASE ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NEEDED.

1. What are your reasons for wanting to volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. List your hobbies, interests, and skills that you feel will help you while you are a volunteer here? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What skills, abilities, and/or knowledge do you hope to develop while you are a volunteer here? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How did you hear about our volunteer program? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you have a valid driver's license? Y ( ) N ( ) What State? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you had training in First Aid/CPR Y ( ) N ( )

List training, dates, and certificates that are currently valid: \_\_\_\_\_

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Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return To: Volunteer Coordinator  
BLM/Yaquina Head ONA  
P.O. Box 936  
Newport, OR. 97365  
(541) 574-3100