

VOLUNTEER LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER/GUIDE POSITION DESCRIPTION



JOB TITLE: Lighthouse Keeper

POSITION OVERVIEW:

Provides interpretive opportunities to park visitors. The emphasis in this position is on the area's cultural resources, especially the Yaquina Head Lighthouse and its role in Westward expansion. Guides also assist with natural history interpretation, resource management and visitor safety.

DUTIES:

Guides perform the following services:

- Dressed in provided historic (replica) costume of 1885, guides greet and provide orientation for park visitors entering the Yaquina Head Lighthouse.
- May lead thematic, interpretive tours of the Lighthouse.
- Provide informal interpretation at the Lighthouse and other areas throughout Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.
- May provide visitors with park orientation and information about the local area at the Interpretive Center.
- May help prepare the Lighthouse for the next day's visitors by assisting with cleaning, button making, and other similar tasks.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Teamwork: All volunteer guides must show a willingness to work and get along with a wide variety of co-workers and visitors.

Professional Image: In the eyes of the visitors, the guide is the BLM. Thus, guides are expected to present a professional image of the BLM in their dress, grooming, and demeanor.

Customer Service: A genuine desire to insure that each visitor has an enjoyable experience at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area is essential.

Youth and Family Centered: Should enjoy working with children and families that visit Yaquina Head.

Physical Ability: The ability to climb the 110 steps up the Lighthouse tower from one to five times per day is required. The ability to stand for long periods of time is desirable, but not required.

DUTY SCHEDULE:

A Lighthouse guide must be flexible enough to handle variations in work routine caused by weather, shifting priorities, and visitor needs. A consistent schedule will be developed with each guide individually.

Duty hours normally occur from noon to 4:00 p.m. during the off-season and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Memorial Day weekend through September. Occasionally, guides may be requested to work at special evening or early morning events.

Guides may work weekends and holidays.

Guides are requested to work at least two shifts each month. Each shift is approximately two or four hours long.

COMPENSATION:

Although there is no monetary compensation, guides enjoy the beautiful setting, working with professional staff, a well-kept historic Lighthouse that receives many positive comments, friendly visitors to share information with, and free entrance to Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.

SUPERVISION:

Guides are supervised by the lead lighthouse ranger. The volunteer coordinator in conjunction with the lead lighthouse ranger, will arrange the duty schedules, training, and performance evaluations of the guides.

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 just three miles north of Newport, on Oregon's scenic central coast. Nestled comfortably 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. 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. Over 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 whale sightings take place all 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 at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area seeks to 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.

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