

# VOLUNTEER TIDEPOL GUIDE

## POSITION DESCRIPTION



**JOB TITLE:** Tidepool Guide

**POSITION OVERVIEW:**

Provides interpretive opportunities to park visitors. The emphasis in this position is on the area's natural resources, especially the tidepools at Cobble Beach. Guides also assists with cultural history interpretation, resource management and visitor safety.

**DUTIES:**

Guide performs the following services:

- Greets and provides safety orientation for park visitors entering the intertidal area at Cobble Beach.
- Provides interpretive opportunities for visitors at Cobble Beach by engaging them in conversations and by using questioning strategies that lead to discovery.
- Provides informal interpretation at Cobble Beach and other areas throughout Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.
- Assists with resource protection by informing visitors of sea bird nesting sites, marine mammal areas or other off-limit areas and by encouraging and demonstrating proper tidepool etiquette.
- Guides also place and remove wildlife protection signs as tides rise and fall.

**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:** Guides should enjoy working with children and families that visit Yaquina Head.

**Physical Ability:** Guides in this position must be physically able to climb and descend the 130 steps down to Cobble Beach one to several times per day. They must also be able to safely across the cobbles and walk among the slippery and uneven rocks in the intertidal area.

**DUTY SCHEDULE:**

A tidepool guide must be flexible enough to handle variations in work routine caused by changing tides, unpredictable weather, and visitor needs. A schedule will be developed with each guide individually.

Duty hours normally occur from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the off-season and from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 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, some of the most diverse tidepools along the Oregon Coast, friendly visitors to share information with, and free entrance to Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.

### **SUPERVISION:**

Guides 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 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.

### **Further information:**

Katherine Fuller, Volunteer Coordinator  
Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area  
750 Lighthouse Drive, Newport, OR 97365  
kafuller@blm.gov; 541.574.3143

