

## Volunteer Position Description: Discover the Flyway (DTF) School Program Docent

### Goal of position:

To provide K–12 grade school groups with a hands–on, interactive learning experience focused on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Demonstration Wetlands.

### Duties:

*Activity Station Docent:* Set up, present, and take down hands–on learning activities as outlined in the provided lesson plans. Each docent is responsible for one learning activity per class and will repeat that activity to 3–4 small groups of children on that day. Lead and Shadow Docent positions are available. A Yolo Basin Foundation staff member will carry out the overall coordination of the day’s field trip and learning activities.

*Tour Docent:* Prepare field supplies and team up with staff to co–lead and assist with tours, wildlife viewing through binoculars and spotting scopes, and nature walks in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Tour Co–Lead, Assist, and Driver Docent positions are available.

**Supervised by:** Education Coordinator

**Time Commitment:** Volunteer shifts are weekdays throughout the school year from approximately 8:15 to 11:30 a.m. for activity stations and 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Wildlife Area tours. Docents commit to lead, assist or shadow a minimum of three times a month.

**Qualifications:** An enthusiasm for working with children, a passion for nature, and an interest in wetlands and local species. Prior knowledge is not required of DTF docents. DTF docents must also be able to lift a light amount of weight.

**Training:** Discover the Flyway Docents participate in a comprehensive training consisting of five sessions. The initial training session covers establishment and significance of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, role of the Yolo Basin Foundation and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and an introduction to the Discover the Flyway school

program. Subsequent training sessions focus on learning specific activities that docents will lead with school groups. A private tour and management overview of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Behavior Management from a Docent's Perspective are also included. DTF docents are required to shadow other docents or staff for at least 2 days after training and before leading activities themselves. A detailed resource package with background material and lesson plans is provided.

**Volunteer Benefits:** This position provides a chance to excite children about the environment and to be part of a group making a difference in our local community. It is an excellent opportunity to work in and with nature, learn more about the species and habitats in the area, and gain experience in youth environmental education.