



Wetland Tour Docent

Reports to: Volunteer Coordinator, Juliana Luna

About the program: Help educate the public about our local wetlands by leading and assisting with monthly tours of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the City of Davis Wetlands. Learn and share fascinating facts about the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the Davis Wetlands to tour participants. Wetlands Tour Docents become experts on local birds and the natural history of these unique and multi-functional ecosystems.

Binoculars and a spotting scope, in addition to trip log and first-aid kit, are provided for the tours. A personal bird identification guide and binoculars or scope are recommended.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Tour leads pick up tour kits, walkie talkies, and spotting scopes from the Yolo Basin Foundation office before the tour, and return it as soon as convenient.
- Leads complete a brief trip report on number guests and what was seen.
- Leads and assists greet guests and set expectations for the tour.
- Sign in guests, provide them with a walkie talkie, and give them a bird I.D. card
- Leads and Assists caravan with the group out to the wetlands area, using the walkie talkies they will note any wildlife, plants, and history along the way.
- Periodically stop along the tour route to set up spotting scopes.

Skills/Qualifications:

- Docents should have an interest in public speaking, the natural history of wetland and riparian species, and conservation.
- A background check through the City of Davis Police Department is required for all Davis Wetlands docents.
- Certification in first aid and CPR is desirable, but not required.

Training:

- Training is held once per year in the first week of September.
- Training covers the significance and management of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the Davis Wetlands, role of the Yolo Basin Foundation, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the City of Davis, how to lead or assist on a tour, basic interpretation techniques, and an introduction to wetland habitats and common birds. A tour of each location is part of the training.
- If volunteers have missed the training they can still volunteer but must contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@yolobasin.org prior to signing up.

Schedule/Commitment:

- The Davis Wetland Tour is held the first Sunday of every month
- The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Tour is held in the morning on the third Sunday October-May
- Shifts are 3-4 hours, tours are 2-3 hours
- Docents commit to lead or assist with a minimum of two tours a year

To apply go to www.yolobasin.org/volunteer.