

# VOLUNTEER INTERPRETIVE HOST POSITION DESCRIPTION



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

## POSTION 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.  
September 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:

- Greet and provide orientation and interpretive opportunities for visitors entering the intertidal (tidepool) area. These intertidal orientations enable visitors to utilize low impact skills while exploring this fragile area.
- Greet visitors at the lighthouse in historic (replica) costume of 1885. Provide lighthouse orientations, informal interpretation and crowd control.
- Provide visitors with area information at the Interpretive Center desk.
- Assist in the park's tidepool 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) may also lead formal costumed interpretive tours of the lighthouse and provide interpretive presentations at the ocean observation decks.

## QUALIFICATIONS:

**Teamwork:** All volunteers 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 volunteer is the BLM. Thus, volunteers 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 140 stairs that descend from the parking lot to the Cobble Beach tidepools, as well as climbing and descending the 110 steps up the Lighthouse tower are required. The ability to stand for long periods of time is also desirable, but not required.

## 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 at 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 hours shifts at the lighthouse or interpretive center. Additionally, hosts may assist rangers at the whale observation deck, harbor seal observation deck, or tidepools.

Hosts working in the tidepools 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 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, and shared telephone line), 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 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 or snow. Summers are generally dry with daily periods of fog, sun, and afternoon winds.

Through out 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 are sighted at other times of the year also. 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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