

Crazy Ant Strike Team Volunteers Needed At Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Reefs National Wildlife Refuge Complex, is seeking 4 volunteers for a 6 to 7 month expedition to Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. Positions begin in Honolulu, HI in early October 2011 and the strike team will be deployed in November for a period of roughly 6-months. Johnston Atoll is located in the central Pacific Ocean, 717 nautical miles west-southwest of Honolulu. The refuge is managed for 14 species of breeding seabirds, 5 species of wintering shorebirds, and for its coral reef and diverse marine organisms, including the threatened green turtle. Volunteers will have the rare opportunity to live in this remote setting surrounded by birds and sea life.

Volunteer duties include packing and preparing gear, food, and all items necessary for the camp in the weeks prior to departure in Honolulu. Primary duties on island during the expedition will include monitoring and treating the yellow crazy ant infestation, monitoring ant impacts on seabirds, general biological monitoring of the island and camp maintenance. The camp will consist of 4 volunteers led by a biologist with extensive remote field experience.

Johnston is an extremely remote site where all but emergency access is by ship, which takes 3-5 days to transit from Honolulu. On the island, transportation will be by foot or bicycle. Living conditions are primitive and require sleeping in tents and bathing in the ocean for the extent of the expedition. Personal communications are limited to 1990's dial up speed Internet access while on island. However, this is not guaranteed and equipment failure could potentially result in communication being limited to text only e-mail with no Internet. No re-supplies are anticipated for the duration of the expedition therefore once on island there is also no way off until the conclusion of the trip except for emergencies that would require Coast Guard evacuations. Volunteers will be expected to work 6 days/week at for at least 40-50 hours/week. However, this does not necessarily mean 8-5 M-F as some projects will necessitate working early mornings, evenings or many consecutive days.

Requirements: Interest in conservation and or biological science. Easy going attitude, strong work ethic, ability to work and live with a small group of people every day and night for 6 months straight without a break. Ability to be a self-motivating, independent, reliable and courteous team member. Must be able to walk 10 miles per day in hot and humid conditions, lift 70 lbs, comfortable with insecticide use and killing insect pest species. Applicants must be able to confidently ride a bicycle. Weather conditions can be harsh with strong winds, gales, and hot sun and high humidity. Since travel to the island is by boat, and at times in high surf conditions, the possibility of capsizing exists. Applicants must be able to swim and be capable of performing potential work duties in the water. All Strike Team members must follow all pesticide and safety protocols. Direct medical attention is at minimum 1-3 days away. Safety in this remote setting is of primary concern and all individuals are expected to work together as a team to maintain good communication at all times.

Prior experience in the following is preferred: invasive species control, shorebird and seabird identification and monitoring, entomological surveying, GIS, data management, and pesticide

application back country camping, small boat operations, carpentry, electrical, small engine repair, first aid, college degree in biological sciences.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide: housing and a food stipend in Honolulu (for pre-deployment staging and post camp breakdown and debrief), transportation to Honolulu and between Honolulu and Johnston, a stipend for quarantine clothes, and food and housing on Johnston.

Applications will be evaluated as they arrive and the positions will be filled quickly.

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and at least 3 references to:

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