Join the 2017 Volunteer Paddle Team

The position: Each year the Columbia Slough Watershed Council hosts dozens of educational paddling events that expose adults and children to the wonders of the Columbia Slough watershed. We’re seeking novice to advanced paddlers to assist with our Twilight Paddles, Slough School kids’ paddles and our summer festivals.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities
- Assist staff members with canoe and kayak-based education and recreation activities
- Lead and support volunteers in the paddling area at events
- Facilitate safe, inclusive on-water activities with kids and adults
- Assist monthly enrichment trainings
- Perform routine maintenance on boats and paddling equipment

Why the paddle team matters: As a member of the Paddle Team you will be contributing to a growing program that strives to engage communities in Fairview, Gresham and Portland to learn about, enjoy, and assist with restoration efforts of their local watershed and natural areas.

Volunteer Benefits:
- Paddle skill building practice and experience
- Increased knowledge of our local natural areas, plants, and wildlife
- Personal and professional development opportunities
- Help address the lack of racial diversity in environmental conservation and outdoor sports recreation
- Help raise profile of watershed restoration and protection efforts
- Community connection building opportunities
- Opportunities to connect with local officials and experts
- Be a part of enhancing the Columbia Slough Watershed
- Discounts to Next Adventure rentals and classes, including beginner to advanced on the water trainings

Time commitment: Volunteers are expected to commit to a minimum of 5 programs over the paddle season (May through September; see program dates below). Alternative substitutions include leading a private paddle tour, attending a community festival to conduct outreach with Council staff, and/or assisting with event preparation and logistics.

Before serving, volunteers attend two orientation sessions. Before orientation, volunteers complete a short, informal interview with the Council’s Volunteer Coordinator.

- Training Session 1: Thursday, April 13th, 2017, 6:00pm – 9:00pm
- Training Session 2: Saturday, April 15th, 2017, 9:00am – 3:00pm - Cohort members will be asked to sign up for a minimum of 5 programs on the second training day.

PADDOLE TEAM EVENTS CALENDAR ON LAST PAGE
Throughout the 5 month season, Paddle Team members will also be expected to engage with some of the offered monthly enrichment sessions (1-2 hours each). These are intended to expand the Team’s knowledge of the watershed, local wildlife and plants as well and opportunities to enhance personal paddling skills. **Attendance at these sessions are not required to participate but highly recommended.**

**Monthly Enrichment Topics** (talking points for your paddling trips)
- Slough 101: Water quality, history of the Slough, levee functions and geology/groundwater
- Watershed Ecology: Plants & wildlife
- Group management and working with youth
- Demographics of the watershed from past to present & conversations around racial equity and diversity
- Advanced on-the-water practice & safety tips
- End of season celebration

**Minimum Qualifications**
- Novice to advanced canoeing and kayaking skills
- Strong communication, teamwork and leadership skills
- Able to work in variable outdoor conditions, sometimes cold and/or rainy and dark
- Able to take direction and initiative, provide leadership when needed
- Able to lift 40 pounds overhead
- Willingness to learn and contribute to conversations and our work in engagement with Equity and inclusion practices

**Preferred Qualifications**
- Ability to communicate in another non-English language that is spoken in the watershed such as Spanish, Vietnamese, Laotian, Russian, Somali
- Interest in local flora, fauna and water quality issues
- Affinity for sharing natural history of the Slough and the watershed
- Familiarity with Fairview, Gresham, N and NE Portland waterways
- Certified in CPR and Basic First Aid

**Location and Transportation:** Most events take place at Whitaker Ponds Natural Area though programming also takes place at a variety of other locations across the watershed. Volunteers are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the event site. Sites are generally accessible by car, bus, and bike.

Interested? [Complete the online questionnaire](mailto:volunteer@columbiaslough.org) or send a brief letter of intent (1-2 paragraphs) about why you’re interested in this position to Volunteer Coordinator Kelsie Greer at volunteer@columbiaslough.org or to 7040 NE 47th Ave, Portland, OR 97218. Include your name, address, email address and phone number.

**About Us:**
The Columbia Slough Watershed Council, a nonprofit tax-exempt organization, is a diverse group of stakeholders working to protect and enhance the Columbia Slough and its watershed through community engagement, education, and restoration. For more information you visit us at [www.columbiaslough.org](http://www.columbiaslough.org)
Paddle Team Season Event Dates:

Minimum commitment of 5 programs over the 5 month paddle season (May - September). Alternative substitutions include leading a private paddle tour, attending a community festival to conduct outreach with Council staff, and/or assisting with event preparation and logistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paddle Team Training Part 1 (*Required)</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>6 - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Whitaker Ponds 7040 NE 47th Ave</td>
<td>Team training for paddle volunteers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paddle Team Training Part 2 (*Required)</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9am - 2pm</td>
<td>Kelley Point Park N Kelly Point Park Rd</td>
<td>Team training for paddle volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Bring Your Own Boat&quot; Paddle</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>11*</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>5:30 - 7:30pm</td>
<td>Smith &amp; Bybee Wetlands 5300 N Marine Drive</td>
<td>group trip for canoe &amp; kayak owners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening Canoe the Slough (Spring)</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>5 pm - 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Whitaker Ponds 7040 NE 47th Ave</td>
<td>guided tour with bimaran Council canoes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canoe Week</td>
<td>May-June</td>
<td>24-6</td>
<td>Wed-Fri</td>
<td>7:30am-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td>Bimaran and canoe trips with our Slough School program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explorando el Columbia Slough</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>1pm - 5pm</td>
<td>Colwood Golf Course 7313 NE Columbia Blvd</td>
<td>Spanish-English family nature festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moonlight Paddle</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>9pm - 11pm</td>
<td>Kelley Point Park N Kelly Point Park Rd</td>
<td>guided tour of slough for canoes &amp; kayaks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Slough Clean-Up</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9am - 12pm</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>canoeing trash haul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbia Slough Regatta</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10am - 1pm</td>
<td>Multnomah County Drainage Districts 1880 NE Elrod Dr</td>
<td>paddling festival on the slough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies Lunchtime Paddle</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>10am - 1:30pm</td>
<td>PWB Launch 16650 NE Airport Way</td>
<td>guided tour of slough for canoes &amp; kayaks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aquifer Adventure</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>12pm - 4pm</td>
<td>PWB Launch 16650 NE Airport Way</td>
<td>pirate-themed family groundwater festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening Canoe the Slough (Fall)</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>5 pm - 8:00pm</td>
<td>Kelley Point Park N Kelly Point Park Rd</td>
<td>guided tour with bimaran Council canoes</td>
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</tbody>
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**Notes on alternative program substitutions:**
- Private paddle dates are scheduled on individual and partner organizations availability.
- Community outreach events include: Rock the Block, Alder Creek Paddle Fest, street fairs, and Sunday Parkways.
- Transportation-related costs are covered by the Council for these events.