



Volunteer Position Description

The Nature Conservancy preserves plants, animals and natural communities representing the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

Position Title: Volunteer Plover Steward (multiple positions available)

Location: Goosewing Beach Preserve, Little Compton, RI

Dates Available: May through August 2009

Program Summary:

The goal of the Volunteer Plover Steward program is to assist in the protection of nesting shorebirds at Goosewing Beach by promoting educational opportunities and increasing public awareness of the Conservancy's management of shorebird nesting sites, and to help people enjoy the beach while learning to share it with other species. High levels of human visitation and recreation on the beach can cause disturbance to incubating adult birds and harm to young hatchlings. A strong volunteer presence from May to August minimizes potential conflicts caused by human use of the beach.

The Volunteer Plover Steward will provide an active and positive presence at the Conservancy's Goosewing Beach Preserve, communicating with beach visitors, assisting with nature programs and walks, and assist Conservancy staff, as needed, in monitoring and data collection of nesting piping plover and least terns.

Duties include:

- Patrolling the beach and communicating with beachgoers about endangered species conservation. Help educate the public on the "no dogs" policy.
- Assisting Conservancy staff with nature programs and beach walks.
- Monitoring fenced areas for visitor/recreational use and breeding bird activity.
- Completing data forms on visitor use and interactions and plover and tern nesting information.
- Assisting with installation or removal of fencing.
- Working as part of a team with other volunteers and Conservancy staff.

Requirements:

- Interest in natural sciences, rare species, and/or environmental education preferred.
- The ability and willingness to communicate and interact with people in a friendly and outgoing manner. Position requires mature individuals who can comfortably interact and work cooperatively with Conservancy staff and other volunteers.
- Must have own vehicle or must arrange for transportation to and from the site.
- Must be self-motivated and able to work independently as well as part of a team.
- Must be in good physical condition - ability to work outdoors on hot summer days.

Time commitment: Positions available May through August. Flexible, but coverage on weekends and early evenings are needed.

Support provided: Conservancy staff will provide training on endangered species management, plover / tern natural history, data collection, and beach visitor education.

Benefits: Play an important role in the recovery of a threatened species, and the opportunity to work closely with conservation professionals and learn about the ecology, conservation values and threats of a fragile beach, dune, and coastal pond ecosystem. Spend some beautiful days out on the beach! Volunteers receive a free Plover Steward T-shirt.

Contact:

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