



Salmon Watch Volunteer Educator Position Description

Position Title: Salmon Watch Volunteer Educator

Reports to: The Freshwater Trust Education Staff

Summary:

The Salmon Watch Volunteer Educator helps to teach Oregon's youth about salmon and watersheds through the Freshwater Trust's Salmon Watch program, an award-winning education program that centers on streamside field trips to view spawning salmon while learning about their life cycle and habitat.

Salmon Watch Volunteer Educators do not need an expert background in water education, but simply a desire to learn and a passion for teaching and getting kids outside. One time attendance at a free half-day training workshop in August or September is required and prepares the volunteer with knowledge about water quality, aquatic insects, streamside vegetation, fish biology and working with students.

In the fall the Salmon Watch Volunteer Educator becomes "o-fish-ial", providing the opportunity to share knowledge with middle and high school students on weekday field trips. Field trips typically begin around 9 a.m. and conclude between 1 and 2 p.m. Travel time to field trip sites averages about an hour and volunteers often carpool.

Responsibilities:

- Attend a one time half-day Salmon Watch training
- Sign-up for one or more Salmon Watch field trips to teach the learning station of your choice
- Communicate with classroom teacher prior to field trip
- Communicate with The Freshwater Trust Education Staff and teacher if available to pick up field trip equipment
- Be prepared to teach learning station on field trip through hands-on biological lessons about water, fish, habitat and the ecosystem of the river
- Arrive at stream site a minimum of 15 minutes prior to field trip to view site and prepare
- Teach learning station to four small rotations of students
- Clean up and organize field teaching equipment
- Complete volunteer evaluation
- Enhance the student experience with fun nature facts, utilizing enthusiasm and teachable moments
- Create awareness about the balance of all parts within an ecosystem
- Communicate specific strategies that students can take back "home" to protect and preserve salmon habitat
- Expand book knowledge received in school into experiential learning
- Cultivate environmental stewardship within students
- Have fun teaching students about the environment of the Pacific Northwest!

Core Competencies:

1. **Student Experience:** Provide an educational experience that will catapult student minds into a greater appreciation and awareness of the environment in which they live.
2. **Awareness:** Provide students with appropriate "take home messages" that can be shared with their siblings, friends and parents.
3. **Spawning Environmental Etiquette:** Teach what is friendly environmental manner
4. **Oral Communication:** Express ideas clearly and concisely in an age-appropriate manner
5. **Smile and Have Fun:** This is the greatest field trip these students will ever have!