



Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary
1361 Wrighton Rd.
Lothian, MD 20711
(410) 741-9330
www.jugbay.org

CANOE LEADER

Purpose:

- To give visitors a different perspective of our wetland habitats
- To educate the public about the ecology and history of the surrounding area

Background:

Traveling through the wetlands and tidal channels by canoe is the best way to appreciate wetlands, and to enjoy a close-up view of the marshes of Jug Bay. Throughout the spring, summer, and fall, trained volunteer guides lead canoe trips of about twenty participants, focusing on wetland ecology, birds, human history, and human impacts. In the spring, marsh plants emerge from the mud, resident turtles and water snakes bask in the sun, and migrant birds visit the Patuxent River. In the summer, ospreys soar overhead, and aquatic plants and flowers are at their peak. In the fall, migrant water birds pass through again on their way south.

Duties:

- Plan a route for the trip, considering tides, weather, and group abilities
- Introduce the group to safe canoeing practices, paddling, and strokes
- Distribute life jackets and paddles
- Supervise the launching of canoes
- While on the river, introduce basic concepts of your topic(s) of interest: wetland ecology; emergent and submerged plants, birds, wildlife, or local history
- Help the group have an enjoyable and safe experience on the water

Skills and Interest required:

- Canoeing and swimming ability
- Physical fitness
- Ability to speak to a small group
- Interest in ecology and/or history of Jug Bay

Schedule:

The four-hour trips, which are timed according to the tides, generally take place on the weekends. However, private group trips are scheduled weekdays as well.

Training:

Canoe Guide training takes place each year in early spring. Specialized training trips are scheduled thereafter to educate new guides on their topic(s) of interest. Newly trained guides are paired with experienced leaders for the first several trips. Much of the information needed by Canoe Guide Volunteers is contained in two handy references: *The Volunteer Canoe Guide* and *The Ecology and History of Jug Bay: A Volunteer's Guide*. Two canoe guides share leadership responsibilities for each trip.