



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

## VOLUNTEER NATURALIST

### **Purpose:**

- To provide visitors with a diverse selection of programs
- To assist staff naturalists in the field

### **Background:**

Each year 1000's of visitors come to JBWS to participate in educational programs. Volunteer naturalists help staff provide one of our three primary goals "**To Provide Environmental Education Opportunities**" by teaching visitors. Volunteer Naturalists are welcome to create their own programs but can also assist by leading or co-leading the following pre-arranged programs:

- **Bird Walks**
- **Classrooms in the Field**
- **Homeschool Programs**
- **Marsh Ecology by Canoe**
- **Scout Programs**

### **Duties:**

- Scout travel route or program area beforehand
- Prepare materials and gather equipment
- Check in participants
- Orient group to Jug Bay, review rules and explain activities
- Encourage questions and participation
- Be enthusiastic and have fun!

### **Skills and Interest required:**

- Interest in natural history and ecology of the Jug Bay area
- Ability to speak to a small group
- Enjoy working with public

### **Schedule:**

- Volunteer Naturalists creating their own programs select dates to mesh with the Sanctuary's overall schedule
- Bird Walks are conducted the first Saturday of every month from 8 – 11 a.m.
- Classrooms in the Fields are conducted weekdays during the school year and typically last three to four hours
- Homeschool Programs are conducted year-round and are scheduled based on Naturalist availability
- Marsh Ecology by Canoe is conducted between April and October, usually on weekends; trips are scheduled to occur during peak high tide times, which vary from day to day
- Scout Programs are conducted year-round and are scheduled based on Naturalist availability

### **Training:**

Volunteer naturalists can attend a training session and/or observe staff naturalists as they lead programs. Staff then evaluate volunteer naturalists as they begin to lead programs. Volunteer naturalists lead programs alone when they feel sufficiently confident, and when the staff determines that they are ready to guide a group on their own.