

# Volunteer Application

*So you're interested in becoming a volunteer at the Hilliardton Marsh. Here is a quick application to get you started!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about the Hilliardton Marsh? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you had any past banding experience, if so where? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to gain from this experience? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to be doing at the marsh? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a valid driver's licence?

Yes

☐

No

☐

Do you expect to be bringing an automobile?

Yes

☐

No

☐

How often will you be able to volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to get a Police background check? (*This is required to any adult who is in contact with children while at the Hilliardton Marsh—no fee*)      Yes ☐      No ☐

Do you have a current annual membership?      Yes ☐      No ☐

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Volunteer signature

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date

I understand that HMREC activities occur in a natural setting, and that therefore has some inherent risks. I agree that participation in HMREC activities is at my own risk, and hereby release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue the promoters, participants, sanctioning organizations or any subdivision thereof, their directors, officers, agents and employees, from all liability for any and all loss or damage, and any claim or demands thereof on account of injury, including if such be caused by negligence, to the extent of the law.

**FOR BANDING VOLUNTEERS**

In order to become a regular volunteer you must complete two observation days that must be completed in order to begin extracting birds from the nets, to complete nets checks on your own and help in the banding process.

Observation day One Complete ☐

Observation Day Two Complete ☐

Total Hours Observed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Upon completion of observation days please sign and date below. Please make sure the BIC (Bander in Charge) also signs of on the completion of your observation days.**

Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

BIC \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Information for Volunteers

## Job Descriptions

*So you're interested in becoming a volunteer but you're not sure what you want to do. Here are some options to help you decide what you would like to do.*

### **Scribe / data recorder:**

The scribe plays an essential role by freeing up the bander to concentrate on handling and identifying the bird, and is responsible for ensuring that all necessary data is obtained and recorded accurately.

#### *Duties:*

- Record data in the log books, as directed by the bander
- Look up references concerning the current bird, as directed by the bander
- Question bander about information that appears to be inconsistent, incorrect, or missing, before he/she releases the bird

#### *Requirements:*

- Attention to detail. The log is the record of all our activities, and it is essential that it is maintained accurately.
- Neat handwriting. If we can't read what is written, the data recorded are useless.

### **Net assistant:**

This is the first role taken on by many volunteers, but it is an important one. Many volunteers choose to keep this role for a long time as it allows them to observe and learn from extractors, and to enjoy the majority of the morning outside.

#### *Duties:*

- Assist extractors by providing empty bags for birds, holding bags containing birds, raising and lowering nets, and carrying items (birds, bags, etc) between the nets and the banding station. This is a tremendous help as it allows the extractors to work much more quickly and efficiently.

#### *Requirements:*

- Willingness to help wherever required, as determined by the bander-in-charge and/or extractors.
- Ability to determine where and when help is needed, to take the initiative to undertake necessary tasks (e.g. getting extra bags, bringing birds to the banding station if large numbers are being extracted, etc.)

### **Extractor:**

In terms of safety, extraction of birds is the most critical step in banding, as it is at this stage that injuries have the greatest potential to occur. Only those who have consistently demonstrated a very high level of competence at extraction are permitted to extract on their own. Anyone interested in becoming an extractor should discuss this with the bander(s)-in charge.

#### *Duties:*

- Carefully and efficiently extract birds from the nets.
- Recognize candidates for priority extraction (e.g. two birds in close proximity, aggressive or very large birds, etc).
- Assess the condition of each bird during and after extraction, and be willing to release it away from the net if it appears to be under stress, or to send it to the banding station as a priority if it requires special attention.

### *Requirements:*

- Patience. Badly tangled birds can be frustrating, but allowing you to get irritated is unlikely to help solve the problem, and will generally only make matters worse.
- Willingness to ask for help. Even experienced extractors are sometimes puzzled by a bird, and the challenge can often be solved more quickly by having another person look at it from a different perspective.

### **Tour guide:**

Birds may not be everyone's first choice, so if you would like to be in the outdoors and experience everything the marsh has to offer then becoming a volunteer tour guide may be right for you.

### *Duties:*

- Lead public or private groups safely around the marsh.
- Welcome the public to the marsh upon arrival.

### *Requirements:*

- Have common knowledge of the marsh and what is offered there. (Osprey platform, owl banding, Summer Ranger Program etc.)
- A good people person. You may have to answer the 500 questions that come with giving a tour of marsh, just remember to be patient and answer them honestly. If you don't know send them in the direction of someone who may.

### **Aquatics Teacher/Supervisor:**

Aquatics is a great way to see the diversity of the marsh, all the invertebrates that live in the marsh and all the interesting life forms. This is also a great way to connect with the students who attend the marsh.

### *Duties:*

- Supervise children at on and around the dock, this includes the airboat ramp, and berm.
- Help students identify all creatures caught in the marsh.
- Clean up and return all equipment to storage areas and release anything in the identification bin.

### **Committee Leader:**

HMREC is actively looking for individuals who would be interested in taking the lead with a committee. (fundraising coordinator, special events coordinator, marketing, special projects (swallow box clean up, walkway maintenance) .....)

### *Duties:*

- Work with and report back to HMREC directors
- Organize and coordinate a team
- Budget funds

### *Requirements:*

- Willingness to invest time to projects
- Attend Director's meetings from time to time

### **Committee member:**

### *Duties:*

- Work on a special task force under a committee leader
- Attend planning meetings when necessary.

### *Requirements:*

- Willingness to work with others/attend meetings
- Skills relative to committee work (construction, computer....)

