

## **Overview**

Elephant Seal Ambassador Docents promote awareness and protection of northern elephant seals by helping visitors view, understand, and appreciate the species; help visitors understand the ongoing management and research issues related to northern elephant seals in Hearst San Simeon State Park; and provide general park information and assistance to visitors.

## **Duties**

- Perform interpretive roves along W.R. Hearst Memorial Beach, Hearst San Simeon State Park
- Set up and break down spotting scopes and interpretive and educational materials
- Staff Arroyo Laguna parking lot and redirect traffic to public viewing areas
- Help visitors view, understand, and appreciate northern elephant seals by interpreting observed behaviors and educating visitors about the natural history of the species
- Help visitors understand the ongoing management and research issues relating to northern elephant seals in Hearst San Simeon State Park
- Provide general park information and assistance to visitors
- Use interpretive materials to help communicate information
- Professionally represent California State Parks by wearing an identifying docent vest and interact with visitors in a friendly, courteous, tactful, and helpful manner
- Operate a two-way radio to communicate with fellow docents and park staff

Docents must possess very good oral communication skills with a diversity of people and be able to work independently. Docents must also be able to spend a majority of the time standing, walking, and/or hiking; be able to tolerate sun, wind, fog, and cold; and be able to carry up to fifteen pounds of interpretive materials a distance of up to one-fifth mile.

Knowledge of the park and teaching experience is helpful.

## **Schedule and Time Commitment**

Shifts are scheduled from 11 am to 2pm and 2pm to 5 pm. Docents are asked to sign-up for two shifts per month January through March. The shifts are Wednesday-Sunday, weekend and holiday coverage will be prioritized.

## **Training**

For the 2017 season, training is scheduled for one day on December 16th.

Docents are required to attend training as follows:

*New* docents must attend the full day training on December 16, 2017 from 9am-4:30pm.

*Returning* docents must attend the first ½ of training on December 16, 2017 from 9am-12:30pm.

## **Benefits to the Volunteer**

The Elephant Seal Ambassador Docent gains personal enrichment and experience

working in a state park setting; training and education about northern elephant seals; satisfaction of promoting awareness and protection of northern elephant seals; and satisfaction and experience in communicating with and helping park visitors while representing California State Parks.

**Minimum Age**

Minimum age is sixteen. Volunteers under eighteen years of age must have a signed parental consent form. Please contact us (see below) for more information.

**Accommodations**

Housing and camping/RV sites are unavailable.

**Application and Contact Information**

**Application deadline is Friday, November 30, 2017.** For applications, or more information, please contact Robyn Chase at [robyn.chase@parks.ca.gov](mailto:robyn.chase@parks.ca.gov) or call 805 286-0856.