



2018 Volunteer Opportunities

Department of the Interior/ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge
24518 FM 1431
Marble Falls, TX 78654
Telephone: 512-339-9432

Office located only
5 miles west of
Lago Vista

The Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge protects over 25,000 acres of critical habitat for endangered species and native Texas wildlife. Our staff and volunteers believe in connecting citizens to nature with first hand experiences by providing public access and educational experiences.

To Apply: Contact Jennifer Brown, Visitor Services Manager, at (512) 339-9432 ext. 70 or jennifer_brown@fws.gov (If emailing, in the subject line, type in your name followed by the position you are applying for.)

1. Volunteer Gardner – Maintain the flower beds/pollinator garden around the visitor center. Research care of native plants, pull weeds, beautify the area, and provide interpretation of the garden(s) to visitors. This is a perfect opportunity for garden clubs or master gardeners.

2. Hike Guide – With over eight miles of hiking trails, we have a need for volunteers who like to share their love of hiking and knowledge of the refuge and its' birds and plants. Hikes can range from easy to moderate to difficult, so if you are not a cross country hiker, don't despair, there is still a hike you can lead. Skill in interpretation is welcome but not necessary.

3. Refuge Hunt Volunteer – Volunteers are need to greet hunters during our Dove Hunt this September. You'll answer questions and be a welcoming presence at the refuge.

4. Volunteer Photographer - Using volunteer's own equipment, take photographs of native flora and fauna, special events, and refuge staff working in the field. Photographs will become property of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and may be used for specific outreach materials.

5. Environmental Education Leader – The refuge has a very active field trip season each **spring** and we rely on volunteer leaders to teach students about a variety of topics. Program curriculum and lesson plans are established, we just need you to step in and teach! Training is provided. If you like working with children and want to encourage a love of nature this position is for you.

6. Roving Interpretation Volunteer – Meet and cheerfully greet visitors to the Warbler Vista Unit, Doeskin Ranch Unit, or the Shin Oak Observation Deck area on the refuge. Provide unit orientations and share your joy for the natural world with visitors. Work period is flexible and is usually two to four hours in length.

7. Special Event / Community Outreach Volunteer - During special events volunteers are needed to: staff a variety of educational booths, children’s craft activities and information tables to acquaint event attendees with the refuge. Dependability and ability to handle assignments required. Shifts are usually two to four hours in length.

8. Social Media Volunteer – Use your creative writing skills to pair images with fun information that will be posted of the refuge’s social media accounts. We have photos you can use for inspiration or use your own!

9. Bird Survey Volunteer – If you are an experienced birder and want to put your skills to work, this volunteer position is for you!! Record your bird sightings on the refuge and help the public know where birds are seen and look for rare birds to record for our biology department.

10. Maintenance Volunteer – The maintenance volunteer does some of the most important work of refuge by maintaining facilities and fixing equipment. Duties may include mowing, trimming vegetation, removing fencing, light construction or carpentry, recycling, litter pick up, cleaning restrooms, painting facilities, and general upkeep of the refuge property. Good physical condition and familiarity in using power tools is preferred.
