



Portland Audubon Community Science safety protocols

Background

The safety of our community science volunteers is a top priority. We expect all volunteers to be safety-conscious, follow safety rules, and to immediately alert Portland Audubon staff (see contacts below) of any conditions where you are volunteering that are believed to be unsafe or unhealthy. We will cover safety during the annual training we provide for the various active community science projects. A waiver and emergency contact information will be collected when you sign up for Community Science projects electronically or via hard copy depending on the event.

Contacts:

- For coastal volunteers: Allison Anholt, Coastal Community Science Biologist (aaanholt@audubonportland.org); 609-751-7972
- Portland Metro volunteers: Candace Larson, Master Naturalist (clarson@audubonportland.org); 503-720-4010
- Eastern Oregon volunteers: Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator (twicks@audubonportland.org); 541-450-7560
- Joe Liebezeit, Staff Scientist and Avian Program Manager (jliebezeit@audubonportland.org); 503-329-6026
- Vicky Medley, Volunteer Program Manager (vmedley@audubonportland.org); 503-318-2036

General safety guidelines

Portland Audubon's Community Science projects are almost entirely performed outdoors in the field. Please take the following precautions:

- Before volunteering, please complete the Community Science Sign up form for the respective project. You can access these at the [Community Science webpage](#). These forms include signing a waiver and emergency contact information. For projects which do not include a sign up link, you will be provided a hard copy waiver form at the start of the project/event to sign.

- Volunteers under 16 must volunteer with a parent, only the parent needs to sign up for the project. Volunteers over 16 may serve on their own. If you are 16-18 and want to volunteer on your own, you will need to fill out a separate form and have your parent/guardian sign it. Either bring it with you to the training or send it as an email attachment. The form is [here](#).
- Please **let another person (family member, friend, etc.) know where you will be and when you will return**. This is particularly relevant to conducting surveys in remote areas or areas where you may expose yourself to potential danger (e.g. coastal projects that put you at the ocean/land interface)
- We recommend working with a partner (“**buddy system**”) whenever you are in a remote area or where you are uncomfortable working alone. If you don’t have a buddy, let us know and we will work to find you one!
- If you are uncomfortable volunteering due to **poor weather or for any other reasons**, please stay safe and do not go out. Please contact the project lead and let them know.
- **If you feel uncomfortable while volunteering, leave**. Report the situation to staff so that we may inform the relevant authorities and/or adjust the field work so that problem areas can be avoided in the future.
- **Volunteers can kindly educate the public on rules and regulations but should not enforce rules**. If you witness a regulation or law being broken, report it immediately to the relevant contact above or law enforcement and we will reach out to the relevant authorities. Do not engage in conflicts, just walk away and report the issue afterwards.
- Be prepared with **appropriate clothing and footwear (and food/water)** as needed.
- Always carry a **cell phone**
- For some projects we can provide a **name tag and/or clothing** (shirt, hat, vest) that identifies you as an official volunteer.