



South Florida WILDLIFE CENTER

In partnership with The Humane Society of the United States

Volunteer Position Description

Rescue Volunteer

<i>Nothing in this position description restricts management's right to assign or reassign duties and responsibilities to this position at any time.</i>	
Work Location	Field/dispatched from volunteer's home; training performed at South Florida Wildlife Center (SFWC), 3200 SW 4 th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
Position Grade	3 ; background check includes Criminal Background, Social Security Number Verification, Motor Vehicle Check and Sex Offender Registry
Purpose of the Position	Allows the SFWC to expand its efforts in the rescue and treatment of area wildlife
Volunteer Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use own method of transportation to locate, securely contain and bring injured and/or orphaned wildlife to the center to be treated • Communicate with callers about wildlife in need • Rescue requires hands-on interaction with wild animals • Level One Volunteer picks up birds, small species, contained animals • Level Two Volunteer picks up ducks and small shore birds • Level Three Volunteer picks up injured opossums, large fish-eating birds, and large shore birds
Level of Difficulty 1=easy/5=demanding (physical, mental, emotional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical difficulty is level 4; requires driving, walking, standing, lifting, bending, handling wildlife, and the ability to move quickly • Mental difficulty is level 3; requires training in protocols and procedures with the expectation that they'll be followed; involves working with little to no supervision • Emotional difficulty is level 3; involves coming into contact with injured, orphaned, or abandoned animals and requires reacting calmly under stress
Expected Environmental Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal rescue and transport can be required anywhere in south Florida, typically outdoors. Weather and terrain can be severe and can include extreme heat and sudden storms. • Restrooms may not be available during transportation unless volunteer stops to use a public restroom. The Admissions office has a restroom volunteers can access.
How Often Volunteers Work On-site	Volunteers must complete our trainings, held at the SFWC. After training is completed, volunteers rescue off-site using their own vehicles.
Orientation/Training	Orientation includes the following: history and tour of the SFWC, description of rules, and overview of programs and volunteer opportunities. Volunteers should attend the orientation wearing closed shoes. Volunteers will be given access to a volunteer manual and will be trained on the particular aspects of their role. Rescue Team Volunteers begin with Admissions training. Educational classes including Safe Animal Handling and Wildlife Rescue are required. Additional experience and training advances volunteer to higher levels.
Learning Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the SFWC and how the program area fits into the larger

	<p>picture of animal protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop or strengthen safe animal handling and wildlife rescue skills • Strengthen communication and customer service skills • Knowledge of various animal species • Knowledge of animals' habitats • Exposure to the operations of a wildlife center
Position Start Date	Ongoing
Initial Minimum Commitment	Three months
Scheduling Guidelines	This is an on-call position. The volunteer receives credit for two hours of service for every pickup/rescue.
Qualifications/Requirements for Volunteer Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to meet the requirements outlined in the Essential Capabilities document with or without reasonable accommodation • Able to learn and demonstrate a familiarity with SFWC's programs • Able to understand The HSUS's policies and positions regarding animal protection issues and able and willing to appropriately and accurately represent those policies when interacting with the public or otherwise representing The HSUS • Strong desire to help animals • Able to follow proper animal handling techniques • Able to control the urge to play with/pet the wildlife • Able to work well independently • Insensitive to wildlife odors/feces • Customer service experience/skills preferred
Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be at least 18 years old • Must learn and follow all guidelines and policies of The HSUS and the SFWC, and follow directions given by staff • Must submit the required paperwork and pass a background check before being assigned • Must wear a volunteer T-Shirt • Must work in designated area – NO entering other habitats • Should have access to a computer to login into an online volunteer communication site • Personal use of cell phones and other electronic devices while on volunteer duty is discouraged • No tours for friends or family • No cologne/perfume
Tools/Equipment Provided (including Personal Protective Equipment)	<p>Wire cutters, bolt cutters and the following:</p> <p>Level One Volunteer must have rubber gloves, carrier, towels.</p> <p>Level Two Volunteer must also have leather or gardening gloves, nets.</p> <p>Level Three Volunteer must also have welders gloves, face shield or goggles.</p>
Optional Tools/Equipment	Water resistant shoes; rubber boots are recommended. Clothes that may get dirty; many volunteers bring a change of clothes. A hair tie to keep hair pulled back.
Supervisor(s)	<p>Volunteer Coordinator</p> <p>Adoptions Coordinators</p> <p>Admissions Assistant</p>
Number of Concurrent Volunteer Openings	Unlimited number of individuals

Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animals must be kept calm, quiet and warm. Animals must be transported in the calmest way possible; no loud noises or radio is permitted in vehicles transporting wildlife. Rescue transportation also requires that the animal remain securely contained and covered by a towel or sheet.• SFWC cannot accommodate court-mandated community service. <p>SPECIAL THANKS from all the injured and orphaned animals in need and from the animal lovers who look to the wonderful SFWC volunteers for guidance!</p>
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