

# Waterbird Docent

## Alcatraz Island, GGNRA



Alcatraz, notorious for the former federal penitentiary, is also the site of a very large and important breeding colony for several different egret, heron, and seabird species, including Western gulls. Also, the island is home to San Francisco Bay's only Brandt's cormorant colony and one of its most important black-crowned night-heron colonies. Alcatraz's rookeries are among the most accessible, offering visitors abundant opportunities to observe avian natural history up close.



Job Title	Waterbird Docent
Location	Alcatraz Island, Golden Gate NRA San Francisco
Hours per Month	6-8 hours (3-4 hours biweekly) minimum
Description of Duties	During active seabird nesting season, from April 1 through August 31, you will assist visitors to Alcatraz in understanding the behavior, feeding, breeding and ecology of nesting seabird species. The docent will staff an outdoor station within view of a seabird colony and explain the activities of the breeding populations, answering additional questions as needed. S/he will set up and tend a spotting scope and/or lend binoculars to help visitors get a closer look at the seabirds and gain a better appreciation of the colonies' dynamics.
Responsibilities	Staff wildlife viewing station Explain current activities of breeding birds Tend spotting scope and binoculars for lending Respond to visitor queries
Knowledge and Skills Desired	Interest in wildlife and especially birds Good people skills Willingness to work in harsh (cold, windy, foggy, sometimes hot!) environment
Benefits	Training in seabird biology & ecology (March 2010)
Contact	Ed Ryken, edwbear@earthlink.net (primary contact) Lara Rachowicz, lara_rachowicz@nps.gov, (415)561-4908 Sara Acosta, sacosta@prbo.org, (707)781-2555 ext. 322