



Volunteer Positions and Policies

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at the Ruth Melichar Bird Center. Please see the different volunteer positions we offer, important notes, shift times, and our time commitment and age policies, which you may see at the very bottom of this document. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us at our email address: volunteer.rmbc@gmail.com.

Duckville Volunteer

Description of Tasks and Responsibilities:

Clean duckling pens, drain and sanitize small & large water pools, and feed ducklings, monitor the health of ducklings (all medical care will be completed by staff).

Important Notes:

Duckville is a “family/friend favored” position because the Duckville volunteer position allows up to 3 people to work per shift. This means with notice given to the volunteer coordinator, you are allowed to bring 1-2 extra people with you per shift. However, this is a more labor-intensive position, as compared to our All-Around volunteer position (as seen below). This position is more “dirty” as it involves water and duck feces. It is recommended to wear work shoes and clothes. Because of the biohazard of zoonotic diseases (diseases transferred from animal to animal, such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) coming to your shift with clean clothes and shoes (not having come in contact with other birds outside the facility, wild or domestic) is important. The position is not generally hazardous to humans but

immunocompromised people are not recommended for this position.

2024 update: Due to wonderful donations we have renovated the interior of Duckville and now have easier and more efficient cleaning methods!

Available Shift Times:

7 days a week, an AM and a PM shift, with these preferred start-times:

- AM Shift Preferred Start-time: 8:00 AM-9:30 AM
- PM Shift Preferred Start-Time: 4:00 PM-6:00 PM

Please note, that while we do prefer these start times listed above for these shifts if you are needing to request a slight alteration to your shift time, please let us know.

Shifts vary in length depending on the volunteer's speed in completing tasks, the number of volunteers, and amount of ducklings in care. However, plan on having a shift of at least 1-2 hours long to complete cleaning Duckville.

All-Around Volunteer

Description of Tasks and Responsibilities:

Help keep the center clean and organized by doing laundry, cleaning dishes, and floors. Assist baby bird feeders by creating food trays for birds, feed baby birds (after further training), help with cage change-outs, as well as clean and sanitize bird holding bins and enclosures. Interacting with the public is also common. When someone brings us a baby bird, volunteers may help transfer the bird to an intake basket and help the Good Samaritan fill out the required paperwork.

Important Notes:

The All-Around volunteer position has more shift availability and a larger variety of

tasks that need to be completed when compared to the Duckville position. This position is less physically demanding than Duckville.

Shift Availability:

7 days a week, 2 morning/afternoon slot and 2 afternoon/evening slot with these preferred start-times:

- Morning/Afternoon Shift: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

- Afternoon/Evening Shift: 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

When you sign up, you'll choose a 3-hour time block within the above shifts.

(Exceptions can be made, email us if you have a special request.)

This position has a minimum shift length of 1.5 hours, and we generally recommend having a shift of 2-3 hours. However, it is up to you how long you would like to be at the center—just keep in mind that there is a weekly 3-hour requirement for volunteering at our center (except for the Duckville position).

Runner Volunteer

Description of Tasks and Responsibilities:

Coordinate with us at the center, and whoever contained the injured or orphaned bird. Pick up contained birds from rescued sites, and transport them to our center or the veterinary clinic.

Important Notes and Shift Times:

This position is very flexible because you decide what times, or what days you are available to be “on-call”. It is not like some of the other positions we have available, because there is no set shift time, instead, you only tell us when you would be available to pick up birds, and what areas you would be willing to pick them up from.

An example of this is seen below:

- June Johnson

- Picks up birds from the Boise area
- Available to be called on Mondays and Tuesdays after 3:00 PM

Maintenance Volunteers

Description of Tasks and Responsibilities:

This position varies to the volunteer's capabilities. If you are someone who has a lot of knowledge in one specific area, we would love to be able to call on you when we need help in that area. There does not need to be a set number of hours volunteered, nor a specific shift time. If you could let us know what days you are available, we will reach out whenever we need your skills. Please feel free to inform us of any skills you have, such as landscape maintenance, renovation, construction, cleaning, etc. We have an old facility and can always use volunteers that have knowledge within the maintenance or construction field.

Time Commitment and Age Policies

Our main season and the time in which volunteers are welcome to donate their time is from around April through August. While this time is determined by mother nature, due to the fact we open up from an influx of baby birds, however, you can generally expect to start volunteering by the middle of April, or by early May. We do ask that you only choose to volunteer if you can commit to the entire season, or at least most of it. Of course, with school schedules or summer trips. We are happy to work with you, as long as you are communicative with us.

We also ask that any All-Around volunteer, volunteers for a minimum of three hours each week. Duckville shifts can vary in length, so we do not set a minimum time commitment for those shifts.

Anyone under 16 will need to have a guardian with them, there are some exceptions, such as if the minor has volunteered with us in past seasons.

We are so excited to have you volunteer your time with us, please feel free to reach out with any questions to our volunteer coordinator, Mary Toews, at volunteer.rmbc@gmail.com.