



City of Torrance

# Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve & Nature Center

Volunteer Position Description

## Trail Guide / Docent

---



**Position:** Trail Guide / Docent

**Job Description:** As a Trail Guide/Docent you will lead tours of the Preserve and Nature Center. Your tour groups will range from school classes (K-12) to senior citizens and international visitors, but will often be your neighbors here in the South Bay who have never visited the Madrona Marsh Preserve before (but always meant to).

**Typical Activities: Typical activities include:**

1. Lead tours of Madrona Marsh Preserve, Native Plant Garden.
2. Nature Center Exhibit Hall, Nature Center Classroom.
3. Assist with special exhibits or classes.
4. Assist with programs given in Nature Center Laboratory.
5. Assist with night-time astronomy programs.

**Required Skills or Background:** No skills or experience required, but any background in talking to people, or in biological or physical science is helpful. We provide training, but each of our docents brings a unique perspective, and we enjoy sharing them! Age: 16 years and older

**Training:**

1. Docents must attend a minimum of three two-hour training sessions.
2. Accompany a senior docent on at least two walking tours.
3. Each new docent must also participate in at least two docent led walks at a local nature venue other than Madrona Marsh. (e.g., Ken Malloy Harbor Park, Bolsa Chica Wetlands, Ballona Wetlands, South Coast Botanic Garden).

**Approximate Time Commitment / Hours per month**

Walking tours typically take one to two hours; large groups may be divided up into two or three groups, with one or two docents in each group, and the total time commitment may be three hours or more per program. Typical time commitment is 4-8 hours per month. Needs are greatest from Feb-May.

**Benefits to the Volunteer**

From adult and senior groups, you will often learn as much as you impart. From the youngsters, you will revisit discovery and wonder. From the preserve, you will be constantly amazed.

**Other**

Excellent opportunity to explore potential careers, and gain experience in Nature Education, biology and ecology.

**For questions, email [MarshVolunteers@TorranceCA.Gov](mailto:MarshVolunteers@TorranceCA.Gov)**

---