

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO) Volunteer Program

Mission and Goals of the Volunteer Program

Through their dedication and teamwork, volunteers are an integral component of GCBO's success. By working together with staff, volunteers have the opportunity to:

- Make a significant contribution to their community, GCBO, and bird conservation.
- Learn more about birds, nature, and related topics.
- Develop and improve interpersonal skills.
- Develop and promote an awareness of birds and the fragility of their habitat.
- Meet new people and make new friends.

As a result of their time, effort and hard work, volunteers not only provide educational and recreational opportunities, but also a gratifying and memorable experience for all people who visit GCBO and value the important work it does.

Volunteer Opportunities

The objective of the GCBO Volunteer Program is to provide members of the local community the opportunity to assist in the enhancement, maintenance, and promotion of the Lake Jackson facility and its mission to protect birds and their habitats. These dedicated volunteers are essential to the successful operation of the organization. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities are available including:

- Native Plant Nursery
- Outdoor maintenance including mowing, edging, weeding, mulching, managing overgrown shrubs, etc.
- Field Research Assistance
- Education Volunteers
- Outreach Event Crew
- Summer Bird Camp
- Special Events (Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza, Brew on the Bayou, Spring Fling)
- Administrative Assistance and Data Entry
- Workshop and Bird Walk Leaders

Orientation

All volunteers must attend one of our quarterly orientations before beginning work at GCBO. This allows you to learn more about our organization, our needs, and our goals, and just as importantly, for *us* to learn more about *your* needs and goals. At orientation you will receive the following information:

- A comprehensive overview of GCBO
- List of events and activities planned for the season
- Volunteer policies
- Introduction to Staff
- Where to sign in and out when reporting to work and how to record your volunteer hours
- More detailed information about available opportunities and related requirements (some opportunities will require additional training)