Spot the Swallows Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why should I sign up?

There are many reasons why you should become a Citizen Scientist! Here are a few of them:

- Exploring local parks and discovering all of the abundant life within is fun! Many participants use this as an opportunity to engage their family and friends in a fun nature-based excursion.
- The data you obtain is incredibly useful it is directly submitted to the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife biologists for analysis. They simply do not have the funding or staff to do all of this necessary work your support is critical!
- Many participants report that this experience inspires them to learn more about their local
 waterways and the animals that inhabit them; this experience is a great springboard for
 natural history knowledge development.

Q: How do I sign up?

Contact Craig Standridge at <u>craig.standridge@pdza.org</u> or (253) 404-3690. I will be happy to discuss the program, answer any questions and send you registration materials.

Q: What is required for participation?

This is an incredibly rewarding program; however there are several items to carefully consider before registering:

- Time commitment the training session in April is 2-3 hours, and each field session takes 2 hours (occurring the 2 hours after sunrise or the 2 hours before sunset) per month from May to August.
- Gear binoculars are required to participate; spotting scopes and field guides are ideal if you have them. We do have binoculars, scopes and guides to loan; however it may be inconvenient to pick them up and drop them off for each monitoring session.

Q: When, Where, and How Long For the Training?

There are two options for the 2014 season – please note that you only need attend one! If you are available for both dates, it is recommended that you attend the Saturday session as it includes a field site visit. All sessions occur at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Education Center Room A. Head to the zoo's main entrance gate, then look to the left (as you are facing the entrance) –

you will see a ramp heading down to another gate. That gate will be open 15 minutes before the training session begins.

Option 1: Saturday April 12, 2014 from 1-4 pm. We will end the program by visiting the Titlow Park box location, so please plan to drive there and dress appropriately for the weather.

Option 2: Wednesday April 16 from 6 - 8 pm. This session will not include a site visit, all training will be indoors.

Q: Where Do I Park for the Training?

Parking at this time of year will most likely not be an issue; there will be plenty of spaces available. If you require assistance with directions and/or parking, call Craig Standridge at (253) 278-4583. Parking is free in Point Defiance Park.

Q: What If I'm Hungry?

We will provide light snacks and beverages – coffee, tea, water, soda and trail mix, cookies, and fruit.

Q: Where Are The Bathrooms?

Bathrooms are located in and near the Education Center. Titlow Beach Park also has bathroom facilities.

Q: What Should I Wear?

Anything that is comfortable and non-offensive. And covers your body, please. For the field session, check the local weather report and dress appropriately.

Q: What If It Rains?

It always rains, we shall carry on!

Q: Will I Need to Fill Out Paperwork?

We will have several forms for participants to complete the day of the workshop. Additional details will be given during the training regarding registration as a Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Volunteer.

Q: Do I Have To Complete the Paperwork?

Yes, all participants are required to complete the liability forms and other paperwork.

Q: How Will I Choose a Survey Site?

There are two monitoring sites – Titlow Beach Park and Ruston Way waterfront, just east of Harbor Lights restaurant. Both sites offer parking and easy access to the monitoring location. Participants may choose a site that is most convenient and appealing to them.

Q: How Often Do I Need to Monitor My Site?

Once per month, beginning in May and ending in August. Each session consists of either (your choice) sunrise to 2 hours after OR 2 hours before sunset until sunset. It is vital, critical, necessary and otherwise important that volunteers commit to monitoring their sites once per month during this period. Of course, we understand that you may be taking vacation, etc. during this time and we can work around it!

THANK YOU!!!

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns:

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