



Date: _____

New Volunteer Interest Form

Directions: Please read about the volunteer opportunities on the next page. Then print and fill out this form. Scan or take a picture of the completed form and email it to staff@mbnep.org, or mail it to: The Morro Bay National Estuary Program, 601 Embarcadero, Suite 11, Morro Bay, CA 93442. Thank you for your interest!

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

City of Residence: _____

Over age 18?: _____

Activities of Interest (see Volunteer Efforts chart on next page for descriptions and requested time commitments):

Schedule of Availability

Please check the box for each day and time range when you are available to volunteer during a typical week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 AM–10:00 AM	8:00 AM–10:00 AM	8:00 AM–10:00 AM	8:00 AM–10:00 AM	8:00 AM–10:00 AM
10:00 AM–12:00 PM	10:00 AM–12:00 PM	10:00 AM–12:00 PM	10:00 AM–12:00 PM	10:00 AM–12:00 PM
12:00 PM–2:00 PM	12:00 PM–2:00 PM	12:00 PM–2:00 PM	12:00 PM–2:00 PM	12:00 PM–2:00 PM
2:00 PM–4:00 PM	2:00 PM–4:00 PM	2:00 PM–4:00 PM	2:00 PM–4:00 PM	2:00 PM–4:00 PM

Do you have a teammate in mind for volunteering? If so, please provide their name below and indicate your preferred schedule for monitoring.

Do you have other skills or experience that may be helpful to the Estuary Program? Tell us! (*Chemistry, botany, microbiology, carpentry, database management, graphic design skills...etc.*)

Volunteer Efforts

We have many different volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Some of our activities are ongoing; others are seasonal or one-time events. This chart provides details about each volunteer activity.

Monitoring Effort	Description	Frequency	Time Commitment	Notes
Creek Water Quality Monitoring	Use test kits and meters to monitor water quality parameters in local creeks that empty into the estuary. Following training with program staff, teams of two volunteers independently monitor one or two creek sites.	Monthly, year-round	2–3 hours/month	Requires use of a personal vehicle, and limited hiking. We request availability to monitor for a 6-month period.
Dawn Patrol	Monitor oxygen, temperature, and salinity levels in the estuary in the early morning hours via kayak.	Monthly, year-round	2–3 hours/month	Requires use of a personal kayak.
Phytoplankton	Collect marine phytoplankton and conduct identification and counts using a microscope.	Monthly, year-round	2 hours/month	We request availability to monitor for a 6-month period.
Agricultural Area Water Quality Monitoring	Conduct creek water quality monitoring in areas near agriculture operations. Assist program staff in hiking to sites and collecting field data.	Monthly, year-round	No set time commitment	Requires more hiking than Creek Water Quality Monitoring. (Uneven and slippery terrain.)
Stream Habitat Assessment	Hike up local streams to collect stream bottom invertebrates and assess fish and riparian habitat features. Learn water quality and stream surveying techniques. Attend training with staff.	Once/year in late spring	4 hours/site	Indicate interest to be notified of our training session in spring. We request availability to monitor at least one site following training.
Bacteria Monitoring	Collect water samples in the field and conduct tests for bacteria in the lab. Attend staff-conducted training in collection and processing using sterile technique.	Monthly, year-round	2–3 hours/month	*Microbiology or lab experience preferred. Requires flexibility with scheduling.
Coastal Clean-up Day	A yearly statewide event where volunteers join together to remove trash and recyclables from California's beaches, lakes, and waterways.	Once/year in fall	4 hours, once/year	Volunteers will be transported to our clean-up site on the sandspit by boat.
Eelgrass Recovery	Assist with eelgrass monitoring, restoration, and research efforts. On-the-water activities may include snorkeling, diving, paddling, and wading to help support planting and surveying. Additional opportunities may become available. Attend training with staff.	Timing varies, year-round opportunities are possible	Time commitment varies	We will contact you with more details if you are interested.
Estuary Nature Center Docent	Answer questions and educate visitors of the Nature Center. Participate in an initial 3-hour training session and occasional follow-up trainings (no more than 3 per year).	Weekly, year-round	A 2-hour shift weekly or biweekly	We request 3 months of availability.

For more information, call 805-772-3834, or email staff@mbnep.org.

Please indicate which type of volunteer work you are interested in when you email or call, so that we can help you get in touch with the right staff member.