

Marsh Monitoring Program Volunteer Regional Ambassador Position Description

Organizations:	Bird Studies Canada (BSC) and the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences (SLRI).
Job Title:	Marsh Monitoring Program (MMP) Volunteer Regional Ambassador
Objectives:	The MMP was established in 1995 to aid the conservation and rehabilitation of marshes in the United States and Canada by studying population changes and habitat requirements of marsh birds and amphibians. The Marsh Monitoring Program Ambassador Initiative (MMPAI) seeks to empower volunteer MMP ambassadors to become regional coordinators for local MMP participants, with the ultimate goal of increasing and retaining marsh monitoring coverage in Eastern Ontario.
Duties and Responsibilities:	The role of volunteer ambassadors is flexible, and will involve recruitment of local volunteers, and providing mentoring, assistance and training workshops when needed. Assisting with route selection and placement for volunteers would also be helpful. Ambassadors may also choose to provide short talks about the MMP to local community groups. Such tasks will be carried out with full assistance of SLRI and BSC MMP staff.
Qualifications and Requirements:	Successful volunteer ambassadors must be familiar with the bird and amphibian species likely to occur in Eastern Ontario marshes, should be reasonably familiar with the wetlands in their area, and be willing to work with local conservation organizations. Volunteer ambassadors should also have experience conducting an MMP survey, or be willing to conduct an MMP survey of their own.
Lines of Communication:	SLRI's Eastern Ontario MMP Coordinator and BSC's Volunteer Coordinator will guide ambassadors and provide all support necessary to complete their tasks.
Orientation and Training:	BSC and SLRI MMP staff will provide training at annual orientation sessions for new volunteer ambassadors. MMP staff will guide ambassadors throughout the course of their duties. A package will be provided containing materials for program advertisement and public relations, and for MMP volunteer training. This package will include prepared presentations, MMP training kits, MMP publications, prepared registration forms, and a GPS unit, among other items.
Times Needed and Place of Work:	Volunteer ambassadors need to be willing to donate at least 15-20 hours or more each year, in addition to attending an annual ambassador orientation meeting. Additional hours may be needed during their first year as ambassadors become oriented with the program. Ambassadors will work from home within their local communities.
Commitment Required:	Periodically, during mid-winter through early summer, annually. Volunteer ambassadors will need a personal vehicle, CD player as well as access to a computer, internet and email.
Benefits:	This is a volunteer position. Ambassadors will receive annual tax receipts for mileage and out-of-pocket expenses as well as a reference if needed. This is a unique and rewarding opportunity to work directly within the ambassador's community by engaging local citizens in rewarding activities that contribute directly to the knowledge and conservation of one of North America's most threatened ecosystems.



www.bsc-eoc.org



www.riverinstitute.ca

