

Good Morning!

I want to thank each of you for visiting with Dr. Clark and me at the Hagerman table during last week's Blackland Prairie TMN 2026 kickoff. As it was a bit of a "speed dating" situation, we couldn't detail all of the opportunities and processes of volunteering at a US Fish & Wildlife site, specifically the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge in Sherman, Texas. Here are some notes:

The Technicals...

1. Volunteers will need to submit a [Volunteer Service Agreement](#) which will be reviewed by a member of the US Fish & Wildlife Service (US Department of the Interior). *The Service Agreement is attached to this email.* For those wishing to pursue volunteering further, complete the Service Agreement and return to me...I'll forward to Spencer Beard, Fish & Wildlife Services Guest Services Manager.
2. Volunteer activities are coordinated through the Friends of Hagerman NWR, a 501.3c organization whose mission it is to "to instill reverence, respect, and conservation of our wild creatures and habitats through supporting environmental education, recreational activities, and programs of Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." We ask that volunteers become of a member of the Friends of Hagerman NWR; our membership is available for \$20. All funds collected by the Friends of Hagerman stay at The Hagerman NWR.

Volunteer Opportunities....check our our website-> Friends of Hagerman NWR - Volunteer

Visitor Center Volunteers

As a volunteer, you'll welcome visitors, provide trail maps, and share information about the refuge. You'll have opportunities to connect with fellow nature lovers and engage youth through the Junior and Advanced Ranger programs—administering oaths and awarding badges. Additional responsibilities may include checking out binoculars, answering phones, and assisting with Nature Nook sales.

Volunteers receive full training and have the flexibility to choose their own shifts. Available shift times are:

Weekdays and Saturday: 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM or 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Sundays: 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Training is scheduled individually and includes several shifts alongside experienced volunteers. Once trained, volunteers are asked to commit to at least one shift per month.

The Butterfly Garden Maintenance Team

Meet like-minded gardeners while maintaining the beautiful Butterfly Garden. The team gets together every Wednesday morning throughout the growing season.

Learn from Master Gardeners and other experts about planting and propagating native plants and how the garden supports visiting butterfly species.

No experience necessary.

General Ground Crew

All are invited to join the work crew to complete refuge projects. The work crew meets twice a month, no experience required. Meet like-minded folks who love to work outside and make a difference for humans and animals. Email info@friendsofhagerman.org to get started.

Habitat Restoration/Trash Pick-Up (Individual or Group Opportunity)

A great community service project. Individuals, scouts and other groups may earn community service hours by removing trash at the refuge or participating in habitat restoration activities. Help wildlife and brighten the day of the many visitors of the refuge!

Trail Crew

Mow the trails of the refuge. Work is seasonal and schedules are flexible. Training on refuge mowing equipment provided.

Agricultural Crew

Train to use tractors and other refuge equipment to prepare fields and plant winter wheat for the thousands of geese who winter at the refuge.

Bat Monitoring

Aid in identifying bat species present on the refuge by placing acoustic monitoring devices in various locations to detect bat calls. Training provided.

Bird Census

Join the weekly bird census team as they collect data about bird species throughout the refuge.

Birding--Little Sit

Join the birding experts for this monthly sunrise bird census event. You will be helping the experts in bird research as you learn about or teach others bird identification techniques. No experience required.

Birding--Big Sit

Join this annual national bird census event in October to help experts in bird research. No experience required.

Butterfly Garden Docent

Learn about local butterflies and lead visitors on tours of our beautiful butterfly garden. You will learn to identify plants and butterflies while joining like-minded folks who love them!

Christmas Bird Count/Feeder Watch

Bird observers are needed to aid in research. Pair up with experienced birders and participate in citizen science at the refuge or individually in the comfort of your home. Watch for this opportunity in the weeks before Christmas, no experience necessary.

Membership Committee

Help us attract and retain memberships. This opportunity requires some computer work.

NatureOlogy

Teach children about nature with this day camp offered free to the public each year in June. This opportunity requires current Texas Master Naturalist certification or a background check.

Programs Committee

Help us find presenters for our Second Saturday presentations, festivals and other events. No experience necessary.

Second Saturday

Present a lecture about a nature topic relevant to the refuge at our monthly Second Saturday event.

Speakers' Bureau

Professional Educators and Master Naturalists are invited to join our Speakers' Bureau to give nature talks to local groups.

Special Events

The Friends of Hagerman NWR hosts two festivals every year, held on the second Saturdays of May and October. Much help is needed with traffic control, errands and other light duties.

Tram Tour Guide

Lead visitors on a tour of Wildlife Drive. Meet people from all over the country and the world! Personalize your tour to your own refuge-related interests: birding, refuge history, the lake, fish, native plants, etc. Training provided.

Water Monitoring

Collect and test water samples from the waters of the refuge to document water quality, identify aquatic macroinvertebrates, and monitor seasonal changes. Training provided.

Youth Education

Assist with our monthly Refuge Rocks children's programs and our biannual programs. This opportunity requires current Texas Master Naturalist certification or a background check.

Don't Forget...

Volunteering for a US agency can be eligible for a Volunteer Pass! A "Volunteer Pass" is an annual pass awarded to those individuals who volunteer 250 hours at one or more recreation sites managed by six Federal agencies as a way to say "thank you!"

Which agencies participate in the Volunteer Pass program?

Volunteer hours may be accrued on lands managed by the following:

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) <http://www.blm.gov>
- Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) <http://www.usbr.gov>
- Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) <http://www.fws.gov>
- USDA Forest Service (USDA FS) <https://www.fs.usda.gov>
- National Park Service (NPS) <http://www.nps.gov>
- US Army Corps of Engineers <http://www.usace.army.mil>

Sooooo...next steps

Take a look at the Volunteer opportunities indicated, *there is something for everyone*. Reply back to me about which programs you'd like to further explore. I'll reach out to you, individually or as group, to discuss further.

Thank You!

Pat

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