



ICO Volunteer River Guide Application

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the San Francisco Bay Rafting group of Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO Rafting), a volunteer program of the Sierra Club! We facilitate rafting outings for people, especially youth, who would not otherwise have the chance to experience them. You can learn more about our program at www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/rafting.

Please read the information below, complete the application, and send it to volunteer@icrafting.org

Volunteer river guide applications are due Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Information for Prospective Volunteers

ICO Rafting depends on our dedicated volunteers for our success. You do not need any equipment or experience, but you must be energetic, eager to learn new things and interested in sharing the outdoors with our participants. Please write to us at volunteer@icrafting.org if you have any questions! Note, you must be at least 14 years old and pass a background check to volunteer.

For 2026, we are conducting our basic volunteer training from **June 27** to **July 5** on the American River. If you cannot commit to this summer training schedule but are still interested in joining ICO, we will be conducting the same training over 5 weekends in Spring 2027. Please contact us for more information about that at volunteer@icrafting.org.

ICO Rafting is committed to making sure everyone can participate and become a volunteer and will be underwriting the cost of basic training. In exchange for the training, ICO Rafting asks the new volunteers to commit to:

- Volunteer for at least 10 days in the next two years
- Attend occasional meetings and annual equipment work parties
- Help with an off-river volunteer committee or project team

All active river guide volunteers must have current CPR and First Aid certifications and Sierra Club membership. ICO Rafting periodically arranges CPR and First Aid classes.

We look forward to hearing from you. And *thank you* once again!

- Your Friends at ICO Rafting



Contact Information

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Occupation/School: _____

Preferred time to contact (circle one): Day (or) Evening

References

Please provide contact information for 2-3 references (preferably not family members) who can speak to your character and suitability for becoming an ICO Rafting volunteer. Note if we should have a volunteer who speaks a language other than English call them.

Name Phone Number Relationship Best Time to Call Language

Questions

1. How did you hear about us? If a current volunteer referred you, what is their name?

2. English is not the first language of many of our participants. Please list any languages other than English that you speak or sign.



8. Please describe any experience you may have with environmental education and/or California rivers, particularly the American River. Would you be able (or willing to learn) to interpret or teach our participants about river natural history and ecology?

9. Will you be able to fulfill the minimum commitment for our new volunteer river guides? As described above, ICO Rafting asks new guides to (1) volunteer for at least 10 days in the next two years, (2) attend occasional meetings and annual equipment work parties, and (3) help with an off-river committee or project team.

10. Please initial all the training events that you can **definitely commit** to attend. If no time is listed below, the event is all day. We prefer all our new volunteers to train together on these dates, but if you cannot attend one or more days, we may be able to do a make-up session.

Summer Training	Date	Time	Location	I can Attend
Kick Off Meeting	6/13	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Fremont	
Classroom 0	6/23	7:00 pm–9:00 pm	Google Meet	
On River Training	6/27–7/5	9 days	South Fork of the American River	

11. Although our main /activity is whitewater rafting, we seek volunteers with many interests and abilities to support ICO Rafting in other ways. Being involved “off-river” also gives you opportunities to gain skills, engage with the community, and see why we do what we do. Please rate your skill and interest levels using the scale below for each activity listed. Feel free to add other activities below the table.

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Interest</u>
0	No Experience	No Interest
1	Novice	Some Interest
2	Intermediate	Moderately Interested
3	Advanced	Very Interested

Activity	Skill Level	Interest Level
Working with teens		
Working with people with disabilities		
Working with drug/alcohol recovery groups		
Working with the deaf		
Environmental education		
Outdoor games		
Leading outings		
Leading youth outings		
Conducting training activities		
Conducting first aid training		
Equipment maintenance		
Volunteer recruitment/engagement		
Fundraising or grant writing		
Community relations/publicity		
Website updates		