

Volunteer River Guide Application

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the San Francisco Bay Rafting group of Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO Rafting)! We are a volunteer program of the Sierra Club. We facilitate rafting experiences for people, especially youth, who would not otherwise have them. You can learn more and apply 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 Saturday, February 1, 2025

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.

We may select promising volunteer applicants for remote (online or phone) interviews from February through mid-March, 2025.

New volunteers complete our volunteer training (basic training) in the spring or summer.¹ In 2025, we will be holding a training session in Spring and a second session in Summer. The Spring training session consists of five remote (Zoom) classroom sessions and five weekends on the river. The Summer training session consists of 9 consecutive days on the river. The schedules are provided in question #10 below. ICO Rafting is committed to making sure new volunteers can participate, therefore we will be underwriting the cost of basic training this year. In exchange for the training, ICO Rafting asks new volunteers to commit to:

- Volunteer for at least 10 days per year for two years.
- Attend occasional meetings and annual equipment work parties.
- Help in 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!

¹ New volunteers with previous whitewater guiding experience may not need to attend the entire training. To discuss how much training is appropriate for you, please email volunteer@icrafting.org.

- 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.
3. Why do you want to volunteer with ICO Rafting, and what do you hope to gain from this experience?

4. Our participants come from varied cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Please describe your experience, training, and/or interest in interacting with members of diverse communities.

5. Please describe any relevant experience or training you may have in teaching, guiding, group leadership/dynamics, counseling, or outdoor recreational education.

6. Please describe any experience you may have with whitewater rafting and/or other outdoor activities. (*Previous experience is not required to become a volunteer.*)

7. Please describe your comfort level in and around moving water.

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 per year for the first two years, (2) attend occasional meetings and annual equipment work parties, and (3) help in an off-river committee or project team.

10. Please select whether you prefer to attend the Spring or Summer training session and 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 weekend, we may be able to do a make-up session.

☐ I prefer Spring volunteer training

☐ I prefer Summer volunteer training

Spring Training	Date	Time	Location	I can Attend
Training Kick Off	3/23	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Fremont	

Classroom 0	4/2	7:00 pm–9:00 pm	Zoom	
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Whitewater Orientation (BT 0)	4/5–4/6	All weekend	South Fork of the American River	
Classroom 1	4/9	7:00 pm–9:00 pm	Zoom	
Weekend 1	4/12–4/13	All weekend	South Fork of the American River	
Classroom 2	4/23	7:00 pm–9:00 pm	Zoom	
Weekend 2	4/26–4/27	All weekend	South Fork of the American River	
Classroom 3	4/30	7:00 pm–9:00 pm	Zoom	

Weekend 3	5/3-5/4	All weekend	South Fork of the American River	
Classroom 4	5/14	7:00 pm-9:00 pm	Zoom	
Weekend 4	5/17-5/18	All weekend	South Fork of the American River	

Summer Training	Date	Time	Location	I can Attend
Training Kick Off	6/14	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Fremont	

Classroom 0	6/25	7:00 pm-9:00 pm	Zoom	
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On River Training	6/28-7/6	9 days	South Fork of the American River	
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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		
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