

Become a Volunteer Information & Application

Volunteers are needed 365 days a year. We are open from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm, seven days a week. We need animal rescue volunteers as well as volunteers for the Wildlife Center. You would be working to help rescue, rehabilitate, and return to the wild, orphaned, sick, and injured wildlife.

WCV Philosophies

WCV rescues and cares for wildlife. We believe that all animals are deserving of our care, attention, and respect. The center is composed of large enclosures, natural habitats, and minimal human contact. WCV is not open to the public, but with notice is available for educational speaking engagements.

The Wildlife Center Of Venice, Inc.

(501c3 Non-Profit)

3252 Border Road, Venice, FL 34292

Phone: (941) 484-9657 (Daytime) or after 6 pm (941) 416-4967

Website: www.wildlifecenterofvenice.org

E-Mail: thewildlifecenterofvenice@hotmail.com

Volunteer Overview

Without volunteers we could not do our job. Thank you for your interest in helping us help our wildlife! At The Wildlife Center of Venice (WCV) there are many opportunities for volunteers to learn about many of the species of wildlife found in Florida while helping them recover from injuries, illnesses, and the trauma of being orphaned.

By making sure that we have enough volunteers scheduled to cover all tasks and shifts, we know the animals will have the care they need and deserve. The facility is in operations 7 days a week, with a variety of shifts to choose from, depending on the volunteer position.

If you volunteer as a Wildlife Caretaker, duties consist of feeding baby animals, cleaning cages, setting up habitats, doing laundry, washing dishes, and preparing food. During the spring and summer months there are many hungry mouths to feed every day.

Wildlife Rescuers and Wildlife Transporters play a vital role in the rehabilitation process. If we can't get the animals, we can't treat the animals. Rescuers and Transporters respond to calls from WCV regarding an animal in need and then head out to assess the situation or retrieve the injured animal.

There are also opportunities to transport donations, help at fund-raising events, do landscaping and construction projects, and assist in the office.

Mission

To provide rescue, rehabilitation, and release of orphaned, injured, sick, and displaced wildlife.

Organizational History

The Wildlife Center of Venice was "born" on January 1, 2004. It was the long-time joint dream of founders, Kevin Barton and Linda Schrader. It was officially incorporated in March and became a non-profit agency in July. WCV has all state and Federal permits to care for and rehabilitate sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

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Volunteer Job Descriptions

Wildlife Caretaker

A Wildlife Caretaker works at our Center in Venice, Florida. The spring and summer months ("baby season") is the busiest for WCV. Volunteers assist Staff and Interns to keep up with feeding baby animals, cleaning cages, and other general clinic cleaning

duties, such as washing bedding, dishes, and implements. During the fall and winter, we see fewer animals and the work shifts more towards cleaning and organizational projects, as well as assisting with feeding and medical care.

Needed: Year-round, 7 days a week, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm - flexible schedules.

Training: Initial Volunteer orientation required. Additional on-the-job training.

Wildlife Rescuer

WCV receives calls 7 days a week, 24 hours a day concerning wild animals in need of help. A Wildlife Rescuer helps us respond to those calls by rescuing sick or injured animals. This is a critical position for WCV.

Needed: Year-round, 7 days a week - flexible schedules.

Training: Initial Volunteer orientation required. Additional briefings on rescue and transport procedures.

Wildlife Transporter

A Wildlife Transporter picks up contained animals and transports them to the Center or to veterinary clinics.

Needed: Year-round, 7 days a week - flexible schedules.

Training: Initial Volunteer orientation required. Additional briefing on proper procedures for transporting wild animals.

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Maintenance & Construction

Volunteers in Maintenance & Construction assist with the construction of enclosures and of furnishings for enclosures such as climbing platforms, shelters, and nest boxes, mowing grass, gardening, and planting. WCV can also use the assistance of electricians, plumbers, welders, and other specialty trades people.

Needed: Flexible schedule, special projects on weekends.
Training: Initial Volunteer orientation required. On-the-job training or instruction as needs arise.

Office & Administration

Office & Administration Volunteers assist the management team with tasks such as typing, filing, data entry, dispatching, answering phone, and mailings.

Needed: Flexible schedule.
Training: On-the-job instruction provided for specific tasks.

Special Events

Special Events Volunteers assist with set-up and clean-up and staff booths at WCV events.

Needed: Dependent on special events scheduled.
Training: On-the-job instruction provided for specific tasks.

Donation Transporter

WCV relies on donations of goods such as produce, food, and cans. Donation Transporters pick up the items from the vendors/donators and transport them to the Center. A truck or SUV is helpful for this work, but not always necessary.

Needed: Dependent upon the incoming donation offerings.
Training: Initial Volunteer orientation required.

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WCV Volunteer Application

Thank you for your interest in being a volunteer at The Wildlife Center of Venice. If you have any questions, please call at (941) 484-9657 or e-mail us at:

thewildlifecenterofvenice@hotmail.com.

Please complete this application and return it to WCV. Once we have received your form, the Rescue & Volunteer Coordinator will contact you to schedule an orientation session.

Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

May we contact you at work? Yes No

Why do you want to volunteer for The Wildlife Center of Venice? _____

Although not needed to volunteer, if you have any experience, knowledge or studies of animals, please describe: _____

Are you currently or have you ever been employed by or volunteered for another wildlife rehabilitation organization? If so, when and where? _____

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How did you hear about the volunteer opportunities at WCV? _____

Review the job descriptions and indicate below which job(s) are of interest to you:

Wildlife Caretaker* Maintenance & Construction Special Events
Wildlife Rescuer Office & Administration Transporter

Note any specific expertise you would be willing to provide WCV:

Grant Proposal Writing Accounting/finance Strategic Planning
Fundraising/development Marketing/communications Team Leader
Legal Services Computer Hardware/software Information Technology

Other/Comments: _____

Please indicate your availability:

January February March April May June July
August September October November December

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
Sunday

Mornings Afternoons Evenings

Please note specific hours, if applicable: _____

How often do you intend to volunteer? _____

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Volunteer Release Agreement

I am interested in making a commitment to The Wildlife Center of Venice and to the animals by assisting in this work as indicated above.

I understand that the Wildlife Center of Venice, Inc. (WCV) is an organization dedicated to rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured and ill wildlife. As such, volunteer work at this center may involve close proximity to many types of wild birds, reptiles and mammals. It is possible that contact with wildlife or work at WCV may result in injury or illness. I agree that any duties I assume and any risk involved will be my sole responsibility.

I agree to hold harmless The Wildlife Center of Venice, Inc. (WCV), its Officers, Staff Members and Volunteers should I be injured in the course of my volunteer work. I am responsible for any medical treatment/services deemed necessary as a result of or in connection to my volunteer work with WCV.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please Print:

Name: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____

Cell Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Mail WCV Volunteer Application and Volunteer Release Agreement to:

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