

Volunteer Volunteer Skills and Abilities

River Otters of South Florida: Otter Research and Otter Education Programming
by

Victor L. Camp, Zoologist

Courtesy Faculty/River Otter Research

The Water School

Department of Ecology & Environmental Studies Sciences

Florida Gulf Coast University

Fort Myers, Florida

There are numerous skills and abilities volunteers can possess. Many of these skill and ability attributes are or could be present in many of us. Listed below are examples of skills and abilities that would be of value to volunteers involved with various activities of the River Otters of South Florida Volunteer: Otter Research and Education Programming.

SKILLS

- Is a good listener
- Has experience working as a volunteer
- Has experience as Docent in a zoological park, aquarium, or conservation or nature center
- Has experience working with volunteers
- Has experience managing volunteers
- Has experience working in schools and with teachers (or may even be a teacher)
- Knows how to use and has access to a “Smart Phone”
- Knows how to use and has access to a computer and printer
- Knows how to use and has access to a photocopier machine
- Knows how to create, access, copy (print out), and respond to emails
- Knows how to forward emails
- Knows how to use and has access to a digital camera equipped with a standard, close-up, or telephoto lens
- Knows how to print out digital photographs
- Knows how to use and has access to binoculars
- Knows how to set up and use a digital video projector and associated equipment

- Knows how to use word processing software such as Microsoft “Word” and/or Mac “Pages”
- Knows how to use Microsoft “Excel” and “Powerpoint” and/or comparable Mac software
- Knows how to create digital documents, presentations, and spreadsheets
- Knows how to work with website software (or may be an experienced webmaster)
- Has knowledge of veterinary procedures (or may be a Veterinary Technician)
- Has knowledge of the biology, zoology, or ecology life sciences (or may have a degree in one of these science disciplines)
- Knows how to use microscopes (compound and stereoscopic)
- Knows how to drive and has a valid driver’s license

ABILITIES

- Has an interest in becoming a volunteer with River Otter Research and Otter Education Programing
- Lacks physical handicaps which would interfere with the ability to perform volunteer activities requiring a high level of mobility
- Can perform volunteer tasks that do not require a high level of mobility
- Enjoys working with people of all ages
- Enjoys asking questions
- Enjoys working with young people
- Can accept supervision
- Can work with limited supervision
- Can attend one, one hour meeting once a month regarding volunteering and volunteer activities
- Enjoys presenting information to various audiences, i.e. giving talks on various topics
- Can independently set up equipment to present programs with a digital projector
- Can learn how to use and set up digital projector equipment to present programs
- Can teach others how to create digital documents, presentations, and spreadsheets
- Can assist someone in editing, developing and managing a website
- Is interested in being an editor of or contributing to a monthly newsletter regarding activities of the Otter Research and Otter Education Programing
- Can wear a brown tee shirt with the words “Otter Spotter” in large white letters on the back and/or “Team Otter” in small white letters in the upper left front area of the tee shirt
- Can ask friends and neighbors about river otters they may have seen
- Can attempt to recruit friends and neighbors to become involved in Otter Research and Education Programing
- Can specifically attempt to recruit friends and neighbors to be Otter Spotters
- Can supervise a small group of otter spotters within a short distance of your residence
- Can conduct river otter information surveys of Home Owners Associations and golf course managers
- Would enjoy creating and distributing information such as flyers and pamphlets
- Would enjoy editing an “Otter News” section in the River Otters of South Florida website

- Can absorb the fuel costs of using your vehicle to present education programs about river otters