

Call for Volunteers



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

WHALE WATCHING
SPOKEN HERE

Winter 2015 - Spring 2016

DO YOU SPEAK WHALE?

Seeing one of the largest creatures on earth surface offshore is an incredible experience. But half of the joy of whale watching is sharing it with others. Through the Whale Watching Spoken Here (WWSH) program, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) places trained volunteers at overlooks along the Oregon coast to assist visitors in spotting Gray whales during their two major annual migrations in winter and spring. You could be one of them, helping people to see whales for the first time.

How to Become a Volunteer

If you'd like to join the Whale Watching Spoken Here crew and help educate the public about these gentle giants of the sea, please sign up to attend one of the three one-day training sessions we hold each winter. You'll learn from researchers and OPRD interpretive rangers how to locate and identify the marine mammals of the Oregon coast. You'll also receive a whale watching reference manual and a waterproof field guide to marine mammals of the North Pacific.



The 2015-2016 training dates, times, and locations are:

DECEMBER 5

OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport

JANUARY 9

Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Charleston

FEBRUARY 6

Cape Lookout State Park, Tillamook

Oregon's two school breaks coincide with some of the peak times for Gray whale migration, but whales can be seen along the coast throughout the year.

Winter Whale Watch Week: December 27-31, 2015

Spring Whale Watch Week: March 19-26, 2016

Training Agenda

Training is free if you register and sign up to volunteer at least two days during either the winter or spring watch weeks by filling out the form on page 4.

You can sign up for a session by filling out the registration form on page 3. We usually fill all of the spots, so it's a good idea to register early. Once you've gone through a training, you can sign up to volunteer at any point in the future. We encourage seasoned volunteers to participate in the trainings as a refresher as well!

INSTRUCTORS

Dr. Bruce Mate, director of the Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute, will be the instructor for the Dec 5 session.

Marine biologist **Carrie Newell** will lead the January 9 and February 6 sessions.

Oregon State Parks interpretive rangers will instruct during all three sessions.

- 8:00 a.m.** Check in.
- 9:00 a.m.** Goals of the training and the WWSH program.
- 9:30 a.m.** Introduction to Gray whale biology and natural history.
- 10:30 a.m.** Break.
- 10:45 a.m.** Gray whale biology and natural history, continued.
- 12:00 p.m.** Lunch on your own. A meeting room will be available for those who wish to bring their lunch. *(Please note: food and drinks are not allowed in the HSMC auditorium.)*
- 1:00 p.m.** Basic information on other whales and pinnipeds.
- 2:45 p.m.** Break.
- 3:00 p.m.** How to be a volunteer. Strategies for locating whales and sharing information with visitors. Q & A.
- 4:30 p.m.** Adjourn.

*While you're attending your training, you can camp at an Oregon State Park tent or RV site for free. Call **Reservations Northwest** at 1-888-953-7677 to reserve a spot.*

Whale Watching Spoken Here partners:



Registration



I am a/we are (check one): new volunteer(s) returning volunteer(s)

Name(s) _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

I/we plan to attend:

- December 5, 2015 training**
OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport # of people _____
- January 9, 2016 training**
Sunset Bay State Park
Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Charleston # of people _____
- February 6, 2016 training**
Cape Lookout State Park, Tillamook # of people _____

Whale watching t-shirts will be available at the training sessions for \$20 (cash or check only).

All proceeds benefit OPRD's educational and interpretive programs.

If you would like to order shirts, please provide the quantity of each size you need below (t-shirts range from small to 3XL).

Size: _____ Quantity: _____

Size: _____ Quantity: _____

This form can be:

- Emailed to whale.watching@oregon.gov
- Faxed to **541-765-3402**
- Snail mailed to **Whale Watching Spoken Here, Beverly Beach State Park, 198 NE 123rd St., Newport, OR 97365**

We look forward to seeing you at the training. If you have any questions about the program, or would like more information, visit whalespoken.org or call **541-765-3304**.

Whale Watching Spoken Here

Volunteer Sign-Up Form

First, choose from the selection of dates. Then indicate your first and second choice of site for each date using the numbers on the map to the right. All shifts are 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Winter Whale Watch Week

	1 st choice	2 nd choice
Dec. 27	_____	_____
Dec. 28	_____	_____
Dec. 29	_____	_____
Dec. 30	_____	_____
Dec. 31	_____	_____

Spring Whale Watch Week

	1 st choice	2 nd choice
Mar. 19	_____	_____
Mar. 20	_____	_____
Mar. 21	_____	_____
Mar. 22	_____	_____
Mar. 23	_____	_____
Mar. 24	_____	_____
Mar. 25	_____	_____
Mar. 26	_____	_____

Oregon and Washington offer free camping at tent or RV sites to WWSH volunteers the night of and the night before their shift(s). Call Reservations Northwest at 1-888-953-7677 if you'd like to reserve a tent or RV site at an Oregon State Park. If you'd like to pay for a yurt or cabin, or make camping reservations elsewhere in Oregon, call 1-800-452-5687 or visit www.reserveamerica.com. And if you'd like to stay at Cape Disappointment in Washington while volunteering at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, call Washington State Parks at 360-642-3029.

