



WAPOA and National Loon Center Volunteer Needs

If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Shannon Watters at 218-692-7750 or shannon@watters-edge.com

- **Lake Water Quality Testers**

- ten to twenty hours each summer

Description: WAPOA is looking for concerned citizens to join a dedicated group volunteers that invest ten to twenty hours each summer in monitoring, sampling and reporting on the water quality of our lakes, and stream. The sampling process involves an hour or so on the lake, collecting water samples and monitoring water clarity with Secchi disks. Samples are gathered/recorded on the weekend with scheduled sample drop off on the following third Monday of each month in 2024 as follows:

May 20th

June 17th

July 15th

August 19th

September 16th

The 2024 Volunteer kick-off event and cooler pick up is Wednesday May 8th from 9:00am to 11:00am at the Army Corp pavilion in Crosslake.

- **Volunteering at the Nest**

- Welcoming guests, selling merchandise, educating/conversing with visitors
- Thursday-Saturday 10-4, weekend events
- 3-6 hour shifts

Description: The NLC is looking for volunteers to help keep the center open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10:00am-4:00pm during the summer! Volunteers will receive training before the first shift on how to use the point of sale system and on loony topics. Shifts typically consist of welcoming guests, educating and conversing with visitors, and occasionally selling merchandise.

- **StewardShip Guide**

- Lead floating classroom passengers in learning about loons, water quality, and other fun lake facts
- 9:00am-11:00am every Thursday, Friday, Saturday

Description: The NLC's floating classroom, the StewardShip, needs volunteers to lead passengers in learning about loons, water quality, and other fun lake facts! StewardShip excursions run from 9:00am-11:00am weekly on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays in the summer. Training will be provided, so the only skill you need is a passion for the outdoors and for sharing that passion with others! Minnesota Master Naturalists are preferred for StewardShip guides.

- **Summer 2024: Cragun's StewardShip excursions**

- We've partnered with Cragun's Resort in Brainerd to kickstart a StewardShip program on Gull Lake
- We will need volunteers (in the Brainerd area would be great) to help guide excursions just like on Cross Lake ○ When
- Fridays starting May 31st
- Tuesdays starting June 25th

- Two 45-minute excursion spots at 9:00 am and 10:00 am

Description: The NLC's floating classroom, the StewardShip, needs volunteers to lead passengers in learning about loons, water quality, and other fun lake facts! The StewardShip program is expanding to offer excursions of Gull Lake, courtesy of Cragun's Resort near Brainerd, MN. The NLC is searching for Minnesota Master Naturalists or nature/loon lovers in the Brainerd area to volunteer in the Summer of 2024 to be guides on the Gull Lake StewardShip. Training will be provided, so the only skill you need is a passion for the outdoors and for sharing that passion with others!

- **Trivia Night Team**

- Facilitate "Loons and Lakes" Trivia Night events at local breweries/bars/restaurants
- Write/compile questions for trivia rounds
- Network with community members to promote National Loon Center and WAPOA

Description: The National Loon Center and WAPOA work together to host "Loons and Lakes" Trivia Nights in the Crosslake area and beyond. This event has been strongly established at 14 Lakes Brewery in Crosslake, and we are expanding our reach to other businesses to host Trivia Nights. With our expansion, we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to contribute to our team and help host trivia! Trivia Nights take place once a month at each host venue.

2024 Event Schedule –

*Other events may come up requiring volunteers. If you have ideas, please reach out and share!!

May 9: Middle Sauk Water Festival

- Volunteers needed to lead lessons during event
- Thursday 5/9 from 9:00am-2:00pm

Description: The Sauk River Watershed District is hosting another WaterFest event at Sauk River Park in Melrose, MN. The event will feature various environmental and water related organizations at multiple stations. Local 4th grade students will rotate to each group to participate in a 25 minute lesson, activity, demonstration, or discussion surrounding water quality and its importance to loons.

June 20-22, 2024: "Loons and Lakes Festival"

- 3 day event that celebrates slow forms of recreation, lake stewardship, and loon conservation
 - Volunteers needed to assist with planning some aspects of the weekend
 - Many events within that will need help facilitating
 - "Eco-Expo" Environmental Fair
 - "Land of 12,000 Loons" Art Market
 - Bobber Blast Fishing Tournament
 - Workshop/Speaker series
 - Stone Skipping Contest
 - Assisting with setup, cleanup, communications, registration, etc

Description: This first annual "Loons and Lakes Festival" coordinated by the National Loon Center and others aims to celebrate quiet forms of recreation, freshwater stewardship, and loon conservation efforts within a 3 day, townwide event. Volunteers will be needed to participate in the planning committee, to facilitate registration for events, to assist with setup and cleanup, and to help organize daily activities. Main events in need of volunteers include the environmental and art fairs, the speaker/workshop series, the stone-skipping contest, the fishing tournament, and others.