

Jobs available in June - Carp Barrens turtle protection

Want to help save the turtles? Friends of the Carp Hills have paid positions open in the month of June for people who enjoy engaging with nature and learning about wildlife.

Turtle populations are under threat across Ontario. Turtles and their eggs are highly vulnerable during the egg laying season, which occurs mainly in June. The Carp Barrens turtle populations - particularly the threatened Blanding's turtle and the Common Snapping turtle - are at risk due to high road mortality and nest predation. If we can find the nests and protect them until the eggs hatch, then we improve the chances for sustaining the populations at a healthy level.

We need people to walk the Carp Barrens Trail and a short section of Thomas A. Dolan Parkway to look for egg laying turtles and recently laid nests.

- Morning walk: about 3 hours within the range of 6am to 10am (earlier is better).
- Evening walk: about 3 hours from 6pm to 9pm.
- Occurs only during the month of June, every day, rain or shine, from June 1st to June 30th.

This would be ideal for mature, senior high school students, for college/university students, and for retired people.

We are open to flexible work arrangements where we schedule different people on different days and times. It may make sense to have two people go together. If you'd like to donate your time, we're open to that arrangement too!

We will involve the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) for nests on the roadway and for nests difficult to protect on the Carp Barrens. CWF collects eggs, incubates them, and then releases the young turtles back to their nesting location in the fall.

Qualifications and Requirements

- You must be 18 years of age or older.
- You must be fit enough to walk the full 3 kilometer trail on a daily basis. You may also need to carry a turtle nest protector some distance.
- You will need your own transportation to get to the site.
- You will need a GPS enabled phone or device to record your track and nest locations.
- You will need to understand how to record your track and nest locations, and send us your data in a report.
- You will need a camera to photograph your findings.
- Screened applicants will need to provide references and participate in an interview.

What We Provide

- On-site training and an information sheet on filing reports and what to do when you find a nest.
- We will lend you a parking pass if you are using a car. The pass must be returned at the end of the month.
- We will lend you a yellow safety vest and provide you with a volunteer badge.
- We will be available to offer help if you need it while out on the trail.

Terms

- We pay Ontario minimum wage of \$15 an hour. We anticipate that you will need 3 hours to walk the trail area. If you find a nest that needs protecting, more time will be needed.
- We pay an additional \$20 for each new turtle nest found and documented.
- This is a contract position paid on an hourly basis. You will not be an employee. We pay no benefits and offer no insurance.
- You must sign a waiver indicating that you understand the risks and release Friends of the Carp Hills from any issues that may occur.

We thank the Bell family for their donation that makes this project possible.

Interested? Contact us at: turtles@carphills.com to start the discussion.