**The Refugio Junior Lifeguard Volunteer Assistant Program Info**

In addition to its Instructor staff, the Refugio Junior Lifeguard Program employs approximately 15 volunteers annually (ages 15-17) to serve as Jr. Lifeguard Program Assistants.

On a daily basis, the Assistants help to provide a safer, better-supervised outdoor recreational experience for the JG Program participants. They also become role models, while they themselves gain training and experience in leadership, teamwork, aquatic safety skills, and first aid. The Assistants work under the close supervision of the JG Program Coordinator and report directly to an assigned JG Program Instructor during the operating hours of the program. Prior to being hired, the

Assistants attend a mandatory 8-hour training program (prior to the start of the session) and work with the lifeguard staff and other State Park personnel to develop job skills, proper work habits, and leadership qualities. JG Assistants are considered to be “Lifeguards in training”. As such, they learn role modeling and mentoring skills to become familiar with State Ocean Lifeguard responsibilities, practice observation and hazard recognition skills, prepare to pass the State Lifeguard test and interview, and prepare to survive the rigorous State Lifeguard training.

To become a Volunteer Assistant you must:

1) Be at least 15 years of age and no older than 17 years of age by June 15th of the current program year (older and younger JGs may be considered for hire on a case by case basis at the discretion of the JG Program Coordinator).

2) Have been a Refugio Jr. Lifeguard in the past: Applicants must have been a Refugio Jr. Lifeguard for a minimum of 1 session to be considered as an Assistant. In addition, applicants who have completed the “A group” portion of the Refugio JG curriculum will be given preference over those who have not.

3) Submit a completed Junior Lifeguard Application before May 1 of the current program year: Please make sure to write the words “Assistant Candidate” at the top of the enrollment application so that it is clearly visible.

4) Pass an FBI/DOJ background check (a.k.a Live-Scan Fingerprinting). NOTE: LIVE SCAN appointments have to be scheduled in advance (often 2-3 weeks or more).

Therefore, applicants who wait until the last minute may be disqualified as those without a completed LIVE-SCAN cannot work as an Assistant (no exceptions).

5) Attend and successfully complete Assistant training: JG Assistant training is a competitive 8-hour testing and training program and to be held the Friday before the start of the 1st session at the Refugio State Beach Education Center. The training is meant to provide candidates with the skills necessary to function as a JG Program Assistant. A standard day includes running, swimming and paddling events, First Aid, CPR, and Lifesaving skills lectures and activities, leadership training and more. Students should be prepared for a rigorous day and should bring a large lunch, lots of water, sunscreen, a towel, a change of clothes, a notebook and pen, and of course, a positive attitude!

**Returning Assistants:**

If you were an Assistant Guard in the past, are in good standing, and are interested in becoming an Assistant again this season, you must still send in a completed JG application, however, you do not have to attend JG Assistant training again nor do you have to get another LIVE-SCAN.

**Desired Qualifications for Assistants:**

• First Aid, CPR, lifesaving and/or other emergency services training / certifications • Be available during the operating hours of the Refugio JG program • Ocean experience relating to the position (surfing, swimming, SCUBA, etc.) • Be a mentor and role model for Junior Lifeguards

• Show appropriate respect for yourself and others

• Follow directions in a timely manner

• Be responsive to constructive criticism, including instructor evaluations • Communicate concerns promptly to Instructors and Supervisors

• Wear a clean, appropriate uniform daily (Assistants wear black trunks or suits) • Conduct oneself in a manner which reflects positively on the JG Program and the State Parks

**Benefits of Being an Assistant:**

• The opportunity to develop job skills, proper work habits, and leadership qualities • The opportunity to prepare for Lifeguard training

• Tuition in the JG Program is waived

• Uniform sweatshirts & t-shirts are provided (Assistants provide their own swimsuits)

• "Community Service" hours are available

**\*For more information, please contact the Refugio JG Coordinator by e-mailing at Refugio.Guards@parks.ca.gov or calling (805) 331-8018.**