

Wisconsin Bat Festival – Volunteer Opportunities

Saturday, June 1, 2013 at Warner Park in Madison

Volunteers—

Your positive “battitude” is needed, and we can’t put on the Festival with you!

Please read over the information below and let us know how you can help. *Bulleated stations* (each have 3 shifts available and we need at least two people for most areas each shift). Please let me know which station & which shift you are willing to help with. We also have some necessary jobs (*set-up & take-down*) where no bat knowledge is required, and some *new needs* this year. Lastly, if you have an idea for a Festival activity, craft, or program please let me know—especially if you are willing to prepare it & run it yourself!

For those of you wanting to request shifts based on presentation time I will try to have a final speaker schedule available by May 15. Volunteers receive a t-shirt for their efforts, our eternal gratitude, & the warm fuzzy feeling you get from helping bats!

Please RSVP to Jennifer.Redell@wisconsin.gov by May 19th with the following information:

1. your full name (& the names of anyone else you’ve recruited) & email address
2. top 3 station/shift requests (I will try to accommodate your request)
3. your t-shirt size (Adult S,M,L, XL)

(I’ll send a final schedule & details later that week) Thanks so much!

~ Jennifer Redell

Friday afternoon set-up helpers—(we need help unloading the Eastern red bat U-haul & setting up everything by 6pm)

**** New this year** WI Bat Conservation Society Soiree**—(Friday 6-7pm we will need a few smiling faces to help welcome & check-in pre-registered donors)

Saturday evening clean-up helpers (after 5:30—we have to clear out of the building by 8:00pm—everything will be put on carts & placed in the U-haul truck)

****New this year** Bat Science Night helpers** (field experience night will run from 7-10 Saturday and we need a few folks to help sell/check tickets & to help where needed)

Stations & shifts (see descriptions below)

1st shift (9:30am- 12:30pm)

2nd shift (12:30am-3:30pm)

3rd shift (3:30pm-6:30pm)

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- **Registration (Lounge)**

We need smiling faces to greet families at the door and sell tickets for the Festival.

- **Raffle ticket table (Lounge)**

Sell raffle tickets & help explain prizes (everything from field trips to pottery, etc.). Help direct guests to various activities/programs at the Festival.

- **Wisconsin Bat Conservation Society table (Lounge)**

Encourage attendees to join & donate to on-the-ground funding for current WNS project work of the DNR's Wisconsin Bat Program. Membership has special perks (like private field trips, donor-only events & updates, etc.)

- **Live Bat Programs (Speaker Room 1)**

Programs run all day long. We need a few helpers to check for wrist bands, open and close doors after and before programs, and help special guest Rob Mies before/during/after his presentation.

- **Concurrent Programs (Speaker Rooms 2 & 3)**

Concurrent presentations (science based) by local experts will need speaker introductions (read from a script) & ushering (close the doors, offer help if the presenter needs it, etc.).

- **Live Bat Displays (Gym)**

Love bats & know a thing or two about them? Share your enthusiasm & knowledge with families who might be seeing live bats up close for the first time. Answer common questions and share a few fast facts from the interpretive display and watch over our celebrity winged guests from Wisconsin and around the world.

- **Go-Fers (Everywhere!)**

If you are creative and enjoy surprise missions we need you to help with last minute needs and errands around the Festival. Make the rounds to relieve volunteers at various stations so they can get a break when needed. Help show volunteers to the area where they will be helping out.

- **OBC Book store/Gift shop (Lounge)**

Work alongside an OBC staff member to help sell a variety of bat books, toys, t-shirts, posters, etc. (proceeds benefit the Organization for Bat Conservation and Wisconsin Bat Conservation Fund). First and third shift volunteers will also help set up and pack up gift shop.

- **Bat Acoustics (Gym)**

Would you know a feeding buzz if you heard one? If you like helping out with our acoustic monitoring project and have experience and stories to share, then this is the place for you! Work alongside DNR staff to help explain the project, equipment, and how echolocation works. Your enthusiasm helps encourage new volunteers!

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- **Bat Roost Monitoring (Gym)**

Do you have bat houses up in your yard? If you like volunteering for our roost monitoring project and have experience and stories to share, then this is the place for you! Work alongside DNR staff to help explain the project, bat houses styles, and how roost counting works. Your enthusiasm helps encourage new volunteers!

- **Be-a-bat-biologist (Outside picnic area—inside if rain)**

Biology professors Deanna Byrnes & Jeff Huebschman will plan and run this activity. Their students & other volunteers will help children learn field techniques for working with bats, including:

1. Put on gloves, remove a toy bat from mist net/harp trap, place in cloth holding bag
2. Learn to use a dichotomous key to determine which “species” of bat it is
3. Learn to measure the forearm, weigh the bat, record the data
4. “Release” the bat!
5. Examine real bat study skins up close to learn the differences between WI bat species

- **(Inflatable) Cave Hibernacula & Cave “Squeeze” Box (Outside picnic area—inside if rain)**

Do you know a cave from a hole in the ground? Work alongside DNR bat crew members and help kids and parents experience the inflatable “cave” that serves as a (pretend) bat hibernaculum. Crawl inside to observe cave formations & see photos/video of what it’s like underground in a real Wisconsin hibernaculum filled with thousands of bats. Which species can you find? Help children suit up in coveralls, helmets, & lights and remind them to be VERY quiet so as not to disturb the hibernating bats!

Help kids and adults who might want to become bat biologists squeeze their way through “The Interview” box! Who can get through the smallest spot? Try to beat the record for your age category!

- **Guano Dissection & Bat lunch box (Gym)**

Are you a teacher by trade or just at heart? Help our Festival guests use a dissecting scope to look up close at guano and identify undigested insect parts left over from the bat’s meal! Did you know guano makes great fertilizer? Sell guano for visitors to take home to their gardens. Help kids find out: What’s inside a bat’s lunch box? Use a scale to find out how much food you would have to eat (each night!) if you were a bat. Bats save farmers a lot of money in pesticide costs—see just how much. Various WI fruits reliant on bats as a form of pest control—which ones are they?

- **Bat cornucopia (Gym)**

Thank you bats! Help bat-fans sample some of the crops that rely on bats for pollination and seed dispersal.

- **Face painting (Gym)**

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This is popular, easy, and fun! We need lots of face-painters to help kids show off their positive “battitudes”!

- **Bat mask & other crafts (Gym)**

Help children fold bat paper air-planes, create their own bat mask, and other crafts.

- **Be-a-bat games & activities (Gym)**

Work alongside naturalists from the Urban Ecology Center to engage with children and share your positive “battitude”. Help them discover what its like to be a bat. They can check their wingspan to find out what kind of bat they would be. Catch a bug the way bats do. Help kids discover how well their own bat senses work- from ears to nose.