



Big Thicket Association

Job Title: Volunteer Deckhand, Neches River Adventures Program

Purpose: To support the Big Thicket Association (BTA) mission of providing an education and outreach program to the public. Deckhands assist the Captain with boat preparation, boat operation, and passenger management/customer service.

Location: Aboard the Ivory Bill, 45-ft. covered pontoon boat, Neches River & Beaumont Marina

Age Requirement: 18 yrs. minimum

Key Responsibilities:

- 1) Prepare 45' covered pontoon boat for trips including loading equipment/supplies and cleaning
- 2) Assist with docking, mooring and navigation of 45-foot covered pontoon boat
- 3) Assist passengers with boarding and departure off the vessel
- 4) Maintain a safe environment for passengers
- 5) Clean and prepare boat between trips
- 6) May assist with filling gas cans offsite and fueling the boat
- 7) Follow Captain's directions, including in the event of an emergency

Length of Appointment: Negotiable

Time Commitment: Negotiable with your availability. Choose trips dates from the posted Google calendar schedule. Schedule varies with bookings of public tours and private charters. Public tours are typically 10:00 AM to Noon most Saturdays with crew efforts one hour before and after the trip and returning to the marina. Private charters can operate any day with varied departure and return times.

Qualifications: 1) Willing to provide friendly customer-service interaction with passengers of all ages, 2) Knowledge of boat handling, 3) Physical ability to lift 50 pounds, throw lines, carry equipment, and move about a boat, 4) Ability to follow directions of the Captain including during emergency events, and 5) Available for orientation and training exercises with fellow crew members.

Must have own transportation. Must be willing to complete volunteer application, sign statement of understanding and sign volunteer release of liability. Must keep timely, accurate records of date, time and volunteer hours worked and submit monthly.

Required Certifications: First Aid & CPR, Must pass independent lab drug-test.

Desired/Appreciated Skills/Certifications: Bi-Lingual, Sign Language, Knowledge of regional natural history, cultural history, and maritime history of Southeast Texas.

Support/Training: Training/orientation for this position will be provided. Deckhand trainees will assist with boat procedures under the direction of an experienced crew member for several trips. When the trainee is confident of their skills, they will be scheduled as the lone deckhand. There will always be a Captain aboard to offer direction.

Dress Code: Hygienic and professional appearance. Closed toes/non-slip footwear, sleeved shirt that covers mid-section, pants/shorts of modest length. BTA/Ivory Bill logo shirts are encouraged. Cold weather, rain gear as needed.

Benefits: Contribute to the mission of the Big Thicket Association, enjoy boat and water time without owning a boat, increase your boating skills, interact with a great crew, meet new people, share your knowledge with guests, acquire volunteer hours, and add to your resume.

Interested? We would love to hear from you!

Contact: Big Thicket Association, 700 North Street, Suite 79, Beaumont, TX 77701

Phone: (409) 790-5399 (Office)

(409) 651-5326 (Boat)

Wendy J. Ledbetter, Executive Director

Email: director@bigthicket.org

Website: www.bigthicket.org

Facebook Pages Neches River Adventures and the Big Thicket Association



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