

Volunteer FOR THE California Condor Recovery Program

Help save an endangered species! The California Condor Nest Guarding Program has monitored the successful fledging of thirty-five wild condor chicks since 2007, and witnessed nesting success grow from a range of 6-12.5% to nearly 55%!

GENERAL INFORMATION

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Santa Barbara Zoo invite you to join our efforts to save the California condor! Together our team leads a condor nest guarding program that monitors nest activity and chick development, and we are looking for volunteers to help out.

The California condor has made a remarkable comeback since the 1980s when the population faced an all time low of 23 individuals. Today, there are over 450 birds with over half of them flying free in



the wild in various populations including California, Arizona, and Baja Mexico.

Our nest guarding program combines intensive nest monitoring with strategic interventions to address the specific needs of the Southern California condor population. We are looking for volunteers to help watch nests throughout the season to monitor parental care, egg and chick development, and – if you're lucky – the first flight of this year's newest members of the flock!

WHAT YOU'LL DO



Training includes class and field sessions to properly record condor data and safely navigate the wildlife refuges near Fillmore and Maricopa.



Once trained, you will be expected to work independently. During a shift, individuals are expected to drive out to the appropriate location, hike out to a pre-determined observation point, watch condor nests from a distance, and record their observations using an official datasheet. Observation periods last a minimum of 2 hours.



Observation points vary depending on the location of the nest. In the past, few have been accessible by car, many require a strenuous hike, and some sites are best observed by camping overnight. Volunteers are encouraged to select nests that best suit their ability.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Santa Barbara Zoo will provide all necessary materials required to observe the nest or camp overnight.

Volunteers should have their own hiking equipment, high clearance vehicle capable of driving on dirt roads, a good sense of adventure, and a strong desire to assist in the recovery of the California condor!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

TIME COMMITMENT



Volunteers are expected to attend one Egg Stage and one Chick Stage mandatory trainings and observe nests once or twice a month. This year's season is expected to last from February to November.

While observation shifts last for two hours travel time to and from the site can vary greatly. Expect a shift to take a minimum of 6 hours to account for driving, hiking, and your observation.

2018 TRAINING DATES



All volunteers must register for both Egg Stage and Chick Stage training sessions. RSVP to Erin Arnold: earnold@sbzoo.org, this is mandatory to attend. If there is a conflict with these dates and you are still interested please contact us for the possibility of scheduling an alternate date.

Egg Stage Training Date:
February 21st or February 26th
From 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Chick Stage Training Date:
TBA (mid-May)

To register, email Erin Arnold: earnold@sbzoo.org

For more information please visit 'Condor Cave'
<https://www.facebook.com/TheCondorCave>

LOCATION OF TRAINING: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office
2493-B Portola Road, Ventura, CA 93003

