

National Association of State Parks
Volunteer Administrators Conference



Welcome!

Join us for NASPVA 2026 at the Hallmark Resort in
Newport, Oregon. Our theme is *Tides of Service:
Evolving Volunteer Programs Together*

This gathering is all about exploring how leadership, adaptability, and impact shape our volunteer programs. Like the tides, our work changes and flows - sometimes challenging, always moving us forward. We'll share ideas, celebrate successes, and chart a course for the future of volunteer engagement.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 ARRIVAL DAY

2:00- 5:00 PM

Information Center & Conference Check-in

D Deck Lower Lobby

Giveaway tables available for those who wish to share park
swag

SNEAK PEEK: Tuesday

- Breakfast in the Sunset Gallery 7am-8am
 - Conference Check-in opens at 7am
 - Afternoon FIELD SESSION at **South Beach State Park**
- Things to Know:
- It might be windy and rainy. Cell service is limited.
 - Restrooms available onsite
 - Vans will be located outside the Hallmark Front Entrance. If you must drive separately, let us know. Parking is limited.
 - Snacks provided in vans
 - Expect some uneven surfaces, longer walks and varied terrain. If this is a concern, please let us know.



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

STRENGTHENING VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT: STRUCTURE, CULTURE & PRACTICE

Hallmark Resort Newport

7:00 - 10 AM	Conference Check-in Open	D Deck Lower Lobby
7:00-8:00 AM	BREAKFAST	Sunset Gallery
8:00-8:45 AM	Welcome & Conference Introductions Engagement Programs Manager: Allison Watson & NASPVA	D Deck Salon
8:45-9:00 AM	Welcome & OPRD Introduction OPRD Director: Lisa Sumption	D Deck Salon
9:00-9:45 AM	Understanding OPRD: Structure, Roles & Volunteer Program Landscape Engagement Programs Manager: Allison Watson	D Deck Salon
9:45-10:00 AM	BREAK	D Deck Lower Lobby
10:00-11:00 AM	Statewide Culture of Volunteer Service: Creating Connection & Engagement Regional Program Coordinators: Carlie Childs, Jill Nishball, Tara McDowell	D Deck Salon
11:00-12:00 PM	Recruiting Volunteers: Strategies for Rural & Urban Areas Oregon Heritage Grants & Outreach Coordinator: Kuri Gill Communications Manager: Lauren Wirtis	D Deck Salon
12:00-12:45 PM	LUNCH	D Deck Lower Lobby

Afternoon Field Session: South Beach State Park

12:45 - 1:00 PM	Meet in front of the lobby entrance Vans will depart at 1:00pm	Main Hotel Lobby Hallmark Breezeway
1:30-2:15 PM	MU-Level Culture: Staff Engagement, Recognition & Expectations Park Manager: Brian Fowler Park Specialist: Hannah Hines-Petty	South Beach Meeting Yurt
2:15-3:15 PM	ADA Boardwalk & Park Tour	South Beach State Park

**Agenda Continued on
Reverse »**

3:30-4:30 PM	Accessibility in Action: What Every State Park Volunteer Coordinator and Host Should Know Tribal Relations & ADA Coordinator: Helena Kesch Park Ranger: Heather Kern	South Beach Meeting Yurt
4:30-5:30PM	NASPD & NASPVA Board Announcements	South Beach Meeting Yurt

Hallmark Resort Newport

6:00 - 6:30 PM	Personal Time	Hallmark Resort
6:30 - 7:30 PM	DINNER	Sunset Gallery
7:30 - 9:00 PM	Social Hour	Ward Room

SNEAK PEEK: Wednesday

- Breakfast in the Sunset Gallery 7am-8am
 - ALL DAY FIELD SESSION at **Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park & Heceta Head Lighthouse**
- Things to know:
- It might be windy and rainy. Cell service is limited. Restrooms available onsite.
 - Travel time to Jessie M. Honeyman from Hallmark Resort is approximately 75mins.
 - Boxed lunch provided onsite. Plan to eat in the field.
 - Vans will be located outside the Hallmark Front Entrance. If you must drive separately, let us know. Parking is limited.
 - Snacks provided in vans
 - Expect some uneven surfaces, longer walks and varied terrain. If this is a concern, please let us know.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

PARK HOST OPERATIONS: FROM ORIENTATION TO ON-SITE CHALLENGES

Hallmark Resort Newport

7:00 – 7:45 AM

BREAKFAST

D Deck Lower Lobby

Field Sessions: Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park & Heceta Head Lighthouse

7:45 – 8:00 AM	Meet in front of the lobby entrance Vans will depart at 8am	Main Hotel Lobby Hallmark Breezeway
9:45 – 10:15 AM	OPRD Park Host Program: Campground Hosts & Much More Engagement Programs Manager: Allison Watson	Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park
10:15 – 11:15 AM	Park Host Orientation at Honeyman Volunteer Service Leader: Logan Bliss	Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park
11:15 AM – 12:15 PM	Transitioning Volunteer Management Systems Engagement Team Admin Specialist: Sarah Grimes	Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park
12:15 – 1:15 PM	LUNCH Boxed lunch provided onsite	Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park
1:15 – 2:15 PM	Supporting Volunteers in Remote & Limited-Staff Environments Park Rangers: Kelsie Bradfield, Samantha Hollo, Jessica Henize & Hunter Maness	Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park
2:15 – 3:00 PM	Identifying Areas of Improvement for Volunteers and Managing Dismissals Valley Region Program Coordinator: Carlie Childs Engagement Programs Manager: Allison Watson Park Manager: Ryan Warren	Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Travel: Honeyman → Heceta Lighthouse Vans will depart at 3:00pm	

Agenda Continued on
Reverse »

3:30 – 4:30 PM	Heceta Lighthouse Volunteer Interpreters: Program overview & Lighthouse Tour Park Manager: Hylah Furnish	Heceta Head Lighthouse
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4:40 – 6:00 PM	Travel: Heceta Lighthouse → Hallmark Resort Vans will depart at 4:40pm	
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Hallmark Resort Newport

6:00 – 6:30 PM	Personal Time	Hallmark Resort
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6:30 – 7:30 PM	DINNER	Sunset Gallery
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7:30 – 9:00 PM	Social Hour	Ward Room
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SNEAK PEEK: Thursday

- Breakfast in the Sunset Gallery 7am-8am
 - AFTERNOON FIELD SESSIONS at **Boiler Bay, Otter Crest, Whale Watch Center, Beverly Beach:**
- Things to know:
- It might be windy and rainy. Cell service is limited. Restrooms available onsite.
 - Vans will be located outside the Hallmark Front Entrance. If you must drive separately, let us know. Parking is limited.
 - Expect some uneven surfaces, longer walks and varied terrain. If this is a concern, please let us know.
 - Snacks provided in vans
 - Opportunity to purchase souvenirs at the Cape Foulweather Gift shop
 - Dinner will be provided at the Clearwater restaurant on the Newport Historic Bayfront
 - Transportation to the Hallmark Resort will be provided after dinner

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

BUILDING STRONGER VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS & INTERPRETATION

Hallmark Resort Newport

7:00 – 8:00 AM	BREAKFAST	Sunset Gallery
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Defining & Managing Effective Partnerships Belonging, Equity & Engagement Coordinator: Kaileigh Westermann-Lewis	D Deck Salon
9:00 – 9:45 AM	Snowy Plover Partnership: Coordinated Protection & Interpretation Ocean Shore Resource Coordinator: Laurel Hillmann Oregon Bird Alliance Guest Speaker: Cara Gates USFWS Guest Speaker: Cheryl Strong	D Deck Salon
9:45 – 10:15 AM	BREAK	D Deck Lower Lobby
10:15 – 11:45 AM	Whale Watch Program: Assessment, Renewal & Forward Strategy Coastal Region Program Coordinator: Tara McDowell Park Ranger: Peter McBride OPRD Volunteer & American Cetacean Society Member: Era Horton Park Specialist: Janet Sobczak	D Deck Salon
11:45 AM – 12:30 PM	LUNCH	D Deck Lower Lobby

AFTERNOON FIELD SESSIONS: Boiler Bay, Otter Crest, Whale Watch Center, Beverly Beach

12:30 – 12:45 PM	Meet in front of the lobby entrance Vans will depart at 12:45pm	Main Hotel Lobby Hallmark Breezeway
1:30 – 2:00 PM	Whale Watch Field Experience: Interpretation in Practice OPRD Volunteer & American Cetacean Society Member: Era Horton	Boiler Bay Scenic Viewpoint

Agenda Continued on
Reverse »

2:00 – 2:15 PM	Travel: Boiler Bay → OPRD Whale Watch Center Vans will depart at 2:00pm	
2:15 – 3:00 PM	Whale Watch Center Overview & Exploration	OPRD Whale Watch Center
3:00 -3:20 PM	Travel: OPRD Whale Watch Center → Otter Crest Vans will depart at 3:00pm	
3:20 – 4:00 PM	Whale Watch Site Otter Crest Exploration Opportunity to purchase souvenirs at the Historic Cape Foulweather Gift Shop	Otter Crest Scenic Viewpoint
4:00 – 4:10 PM	Travel: Otter Crest → Beverly Beach Vans will depart at 4:00pm	
4:15 – 4:30 PM	BREAK	Beverly Beach State Park
4:30 – 5:30 PM	NASPVA Announcements & Conference Closeout	Beverly Beach State Park
5:45 - 6:00 PM	Travel: Beverly Beach → Clearwater Restaurant Opportunity to explore Newport's Historic Bayfront!	
6:30 – 7:30 PM	DINNER Transportation will be provided back to the Hallmark after dinner	Clearwater Restaurant

SNEAK PEEK: Friday

- Travel Day: No Meal Service Provided
- Conference shuttles will be provided back to the Eugene Airport (EUG) from the Hallmark Resort in Newport, Oregon