



## Volunteer River Guide Application

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the San Francisco Bay Rafting group of Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO Rafting)! We are a volunteer program of the Sierra Club. We facilitate rafting experiences for people, especially youth, who would not otherwise have them. You can learn more and apply at [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/rafting](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/rafting).

Please read the information below, complete the application, and send it to [volunteer@icrafting.org](mailto:volunteer@icrafting.org); or email us if you would like an application mailed to you.

**River guide applications are due Saturday, February 4, 2024.**

### Information for Prospective Volunteers

ICO Rafting depends on our dedicated volunteers for our success. We welcome people of diverse incomes, nationalities, cultures, sizes, ability levels, neurotypes, hearing status, gender or sexual identities, and self-identifications. You do not need any equipment or experience, just the ability to learn guide skills and interest in sharing the outdoors with our participants. Please write us at [volunteer@icrafting.org](mailto:volunteer@icrafting.org) if you have any questions! Note that you must be at least 14 years old and pass a background check to volunteer.

We will select promising volunteer applicants for remote (online or phone) interviews from February through mid-March, 2024.

New volunteers complete our river guide training in the spring.<sup>1</sup> The training consists of five remote (Zoom) classroom sessions and five weekends on the river. The schedule is provided in question #10 below. ICO Rafting is committed to making sure new volunteers can participate, therefore we will be underwriting the cost of basic training this year. (The optional Swift Water Rescue class is a separate cost of \$275.) In exchange for the training, ICO Rafting asks new volunteers to commit to:

- Volunteer for at least 10 days per year for two years.
- Attend occasional meetings and annual equipment work parties.
- Help in an off-river volunteer committee or project team.

All active river guide volunteers must have current CPR and First Aid certifications and Sierra Club membership. ICO Rafting periodically arranges CPR and First Aid classes.

We look forward to hearing from you. And *thank you* once again!

- Your Friends at ICO Rafting

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<sup>1</sup> New volunteers with previous whitewater guiding experience may not need to attend the entire training. To discuss how much training is appropriate for you, please email [volunteer@icrafting.org](mailto:volunteer@icrafting.org).



## Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/School: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred time to contact (circle one): Day (or) Evening

## References

Please provide contact information for 2-3 references (preferably not family members) who can speak to your character and suitability for becoming an ICO Rafting volunteer. Note if we should have a volunteer who speaks a language other than English call them.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Best Time to Call</u>	<u>Language</u>
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## Questions

1. How did you hear about us? If a current volunteer referred you, what is their name?
2. English is not the first language of many of our participants. Please list any languages other than English that you speak or sign.
3. Why do you want to volunteer with ICO Rafting, and what do you hope to gain from this experience?



4. Our participants come from varied cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Please describe your experience, training, and/or interest in interacting with members of diverse communities.
  
5. Please describe any relevant experience or training you may have in teaching, guiding, group leadership/dynamics, counseling, or outdoor recreational education.
  
6. Please describe any experience you may have with whitewater rafting and/or other outdoor activities. (*Previous experience is not required to become a volunteer.*)
  
7. Please describe your comfort level in and around moving water.
  
8. Please describe any experience you may have with environmental education and/or California rivers, particularly the American River. Would you be able (or willing to learn) to interpret or teach our participants about river natural history and ecology?

9. Will you be able to fulfill the minimum commitment for our new volunteer river guides? As described above, ICO Rafting asks new guides to (1) volunteer for at least 10 days per year for the first two years, (2) attend occasional meetings and annual equipment work parties, and (3) help in an off-river committee or project team.

10. Please initial all the training events that you can **definitely commit** to attend. If no time is listed below, the event is all day. We prefer all our new volunteers to train together on these dates, but if you cannot attend one weekend, we may be able to do a make-up session. If you cannot attend a classroom session at the scheduled time, you may watch its recording and complete an activity to learn the material.

Event	Date	Time	Location	I can Attend
<b>Optional:</b> <i>Training Kick Off</i>	3/24	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Fremont	
Whitewater Orientation	4/6–4/7	All weekend	South Fork of the American River	
Classroom 1	4/10	7:00 pm–9:00 pm	Zoom	
Weekend 1	4/13–4/14	All weekend	South Fork of the American River	
<b>Optional:</b> <i>Swift Water Rescue</i>	4/20–4/21	All weekend	South Fork of the American River	
Classroom 2	4/24	7:00 pm–9:00 pm	Zoom	
Weekend 2	4/27–4/28	All weekend	South Fork of the American River	
Classroom 3	5/1	7:00 pm–9:00 pm	Zoom	
Weekend 3	5/4–5/5	All weekend	South Fork of the American River	
Classroom 4	5/15	7:00 pm–9:00 pm	Zoom	
Weekend 4	5/18–5/19	All weekend	South Fork of the American River	
<b>Optional:</b> <i>ICO Friends &amp; Family Trip</i>	5/25–5/26	All weekend	Trinity River	



11. Although our main /activity is whitewater rafting, we seek volunteers with many interests and abilities to support ICO Rafting in other ways. Being involved “off-river” also gives you opportunities to gain skills, engage with the community, and see why we do what we do. Please rate your skill and interest levels using the scale below for each activity listed. Feel free to add other activities below the table.

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Interest</u>
0	No Experience	No Interest
1	Novice	Some Interest
2	Intermediate	Moderately Interested
3	Advanced	Very Interested

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Skill Level</b>	<b>Interest Level</b>
Working with teens		
Working with people with disabilities		
Working with drug/alcohol recovery groups		
Working with the deaf		
Environmental education		
Outdoor games		
Leading outings		
Leading youth outings		
Conducting training activities		
Conducting first aid training		
Equipment maintenance		
Volunteer recruitment/engagement		
Fundraising or grant writing		
Community relations/publicity		
Website updates		