

WildResearch – Iona Island Bird Observatory

Code of Conduct & Expectations of Volunteers at the Banding Station

As a volunteer with WildResearch, I recognize that I am a representative of WildResearch and will act in a manner that shows our organization in a positive light and will do nothing that will jeopardize our ability to continue conducting research in the future.

I agree to:

- Follow all Federal, Provincial and Municipal laws, as well as all rules governing Vancouver Parks, and any rules particular to Iona Beach Regional Park
- Not consume prior to, during or directly following a volunteer shift (ie: while still at Iona Beach Regional Park): Alcohol, Cannabis, or other similar substances/narcotics
- Not smoke tobacco or e-cigarettes while at Iona Beach Regional Park, other than at Designated Smoking Areas. After any smoke breaks, to thoroughly sanitize and prevent any transfer of nicotine or odour to the birds, bags or tools during handling. Note: Alternatives (gum, patch, etc.) are strongly encouraged to minimize disruptions to the research process
- Keep my hands free of any potentially harmful chemicals (ie: insect repellent, sunscreen) when handling birds
- Be considerate of promoting a fragrance-free environment. Note: Although much of the day is spent outside, there are times when both people and birds are enclosed in a small space (the Banding Hut)
- Make the staff aware (Bander-in-Charge on site) of any relevant allergies, particularly food allergies (preferably in advance, so other volunteers for that shift can be notified). Note: Volunteers often fit snacks in as time allows, so everyone needs to be aware of any potential issues
- Make the staff aware (Bander-in-Charge on site) of any accommodations or considerations needed, in order to volunteer successfully
- Read and follow the *Bird Banding Code of Ethics* (posted in the Banding Hut)

I recognize that in order for the banding station to run ethically and as safely as possible, I need to:

- Take directions directly from the Bander-in-Charge (BIC), or the person that the BIC has designated to give directions in a particular situation
- Remember that when there are any conflicting instructions, the Bander-in-Charge's instructions take precedence. The Bander-in-Charge is the one permitted to conduct research activities and will direct all volunteers during a shift. Although the BIC may designate others to oversee certain aspects of the banding program, the BIC is the staff member on site who is ultimately responsible for decisions about what a volunteer can and can't do
- Not handle any birds in the banding station or at the mist nets unless directed to do so
- Keep in mind that all volunteers will be invited to learn handling, extraction, and banding skills gradually on a case-by-case basis, dependent on the volume of birds (not predictable in advance) and the presence of adequate numbers of experienced staff/volunteers
- Keep in mind that it is paramount for the safety of the birds that the Bander-in-Charge assess the skill level of each volunteer and designate others to monitor the skill level of volunteers. No skills are assumed without visual confirmation by the BIC – in some cases, over an extended time period. Skills are assessed and re-assessed constantly. This is a necessary and crucial part of the system of field training used in bird banding
- Come to the Bander-in-Charge with any concerns, questions or clarifications if I'm unsure what to do

I understand that if I don't agree to or don't follow this Code of Conduct, then I will be unable to continue volunteering with WildResearch at the Iona Island Bird Observatory banding station.

