

Salamander Population Study

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Salamanders are marvelous amphibians that travel for miles each spring and fall looking for the perfect pond or puddle to lay their eggs. In order to study the population patterns of salamanders during migration, naturalists have installed pit-fall traps at Flag Ponds Park. Volunteers are needed to open and clean out traps, measure and record caught salamanders, and release any other caught critters.

DUTIES

- Complete training on using pitfall traps, handling salamanders, and park etiquette
- Commit to weekly or bi-weekly schedule
- Fulfill all duties on scheduled days
 - Check 16 traps at Flag Ponds Park
 - Remove any rain water or debris from each trap
 - Weigh, measure, sex, and release salamanders found in each trap
 - Record all data on data sheet
 - Release any other animals from each trap (e.g. beetles, worms, frogs, toads, spiders, small snakes, newts, centipedes, some small mammals)
 - Open or close each trap, according to schedule
- Work independently, sometimes alone in the park depending on time of day
- Dress appropriately and come prepared for the day's conditions

Volunteers may also:

- Hike across uneven and overgrown terrain to get to trap locations
- Be exposed to ticks, mosquitoes, poison ivy, bad weather, and unexpected wild life
- Stand, kneel, crouch, or work on hands and knees for extended periods of time

Project Dates, Training & Commitment

- **Fall:** Weekly trap checks September-November
- **Spring:** Weekly trap checks March - June
- Training will be held at beginning of each season by project leader. All materials and tools supplied on site
- To ensure the success of this project and the safety of animals involved, volunteers will be asked **to commit to weekly or bi-weekly schedule**. The traps need to be checked on the designated days regardless of weather or other events. The project leader will notify all volunteers involved in the rare chance that something should alter the schedule. *If a volunteer cannot check traps on his/her designated day, the project leader must be notified as early as possible.*