



CONTACT: Karen Livingstone or
Communications
(732) 842-4000 ext. 4256
klivings@monmouthcountyparks.com

Andrew Spears
Visitor Services
(732) 842-4000 ext. 4247
aspears@monmouthcountyparks.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM OFFERS TRAINING
FOR TRAILS TEAM, DOCENTS & BIRD MONITORS**

LINCROFT— Looking for a volunteer opportunity? Look no further than the Monmouth County Park System and its upcoming training for trails team members, docents and bird monitors. These free training workshops are a great way to learn more about volunteering with the Park System.

First up is the *Trails Maintenance Training Workshop* at the Thompson Park Longbridge Annex, Longbridge Road, Holmdel, from 9am-12noon on Saturday, May 19. Prospective volunteers (age 16 and up) are invited to this free training workshop that serves as an introduction to Park System safety rules, tools and equipment and maintenance overview. Those who attend this training will be ready to join the Trails Team and participate in National Trails Day on June 2.

Also on Saturday, May 19 is *Docent Training*. Held from 2-4pm at the Thompson Park Visitor Center, Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, this orientation session introduces prospective volunteers age 21 and up to docent opportunities at Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center in Port Monmouth, Huber Woods Park Environmental Center in Middletown, Deep Cut Gardens Horticultural Center in Middletown, and the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center in Howell. Volunteers will be asked to attend additional site-specific training and commit to two shifts each month. Most shifts are 3-4 hours.

On Sunday, May 20, Todd Pover of NJ Fish & Wildlife will lead ***Beach Nesting Bird Monitor Training*** at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Ocean Avenue, Long Branch. Prospective volunteers age 18 and over can choose between two workshops, an early one held from 12noon-2pm and a later one offered from 2-4pm. Each workshop covers how to monitor and protect endangered birds including the piping plover. Volunteers are needed from the end of May through the end of July and are asked to help educate the public about the bird and its habitat during peak summer use and special events including the Fourth of July.

To register for any of these workshops, please contact Melissa Kelly at (732) 842-4000, ext. 4283, or mkelly@monmouthcountyparks.com. To learn more about Park System volunteer opportunities, please visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call (732) 842-4000. For persons with hearing impairment, the TTY/TDD number is 711. The Monmouth County Park System, created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks and Recreation agency.

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Pictured – Piping Plover