

What is a Docent?

A docent at Martin Griffin Preserve is someone with an abiding love of nature and a desire to share that love, appreciation and enthusiasm with children aged 8–11.

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in."

– Rachel Carson

As a docent at Martin Griffin Preserve, you have the rare opportunity to be that person and possibly change a child's life.

Docents commit to working weekly with 3rd–5th graders for two consecutive spring and fall hiking seasons (March–early June, October–November), participating once a week in the classroom or on the trail. Scheduling is flexible.



Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit environmental conservation and education organization. It was founded in 1962 to safeguard Bolinas Lagoon from irresponsible development, leading the way for the protection of Tomales Bay.

Today, ACR acts as guardian of a system of nature preserves spanning 26 properties in Marin and Sonoma counties. These 5,000 acres of tidal flats, marshlands, coastal prairie, oak woodlands and redwood groves provide significant habitat to wildlife and have been placed in our care by generous donors to steward and protect in perpetuity.

"This is a proud legacy to leave for future generations—and one that we should protect vigilantly at all costs."

L. Martin Griffin, MD

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH
acr
conservation in action
martin griffin preserve

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Open a Child's Mind to the Wonders of Nature



New!
Earn 4 UC Davis credits!
Training begins in September

Become a Docent at Martin Griffin Preserve

Wildlands and watershed overlooking the Bolinas Lagoon in Stinson Beach

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conservation in action

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Photos by Jocelyn Knight and James Cacciatore



Martin Griffin Preserve School Program

Bolstering science and natural history education in Bay Area Schools

A Wildlife Sanctuary

The Martin Griffin Preserve is a thousand acres of wildlands and watershed overlooking the Bolinas Lagoon and Pacific Coast. The four canyons of the Preserve feature mixed evergreen forests and freshwater habitats that are home to hundreds of species of mammals, landbirds, reptiles and amphibians.

An Outdoor Classroom and Inspiring Living Laboratory

ACR's School Program gives students an education-based nature experience guided by trained docents who facilitate inquiry and investigation. Docents lead small groups (no more than six students) through a variety of habitats where their learners explore animal tracks and signs, aquatic ecology, plant and animal adaptations, food webs, watersheds, water cycles, and other relationships in nature. Docents capitalize on teachable moments and model curiosity.

Since the beginning of our classroom program more than 40 years ago, ACR has provided this nature experience free of charge to more than 250,000 Bay Area children. ACR subsidizes bus transportation costs for schools in under-resourced neighborhoods, which ensures that all students can participate.

Docent Benefits

Docents receive in-depth natural history training in Northern California's diverse and beautiful ecosystems as well as training in the dynamics of working with children in these natural settings.

ACR's partnership with UC Extension's California Naturalist program allows trainees the option to become certified California Naturalists and eligible to receive four UC Davis Extension undergraduate academic credits.



- Be the embodiment of ACR's mission—*Conservation in Action*—by imparting to a younger generation a deeper understanding of the cycles of life and ways in which we connect to the land.
- Develop a bond with your classmates and the ACR community.
- Gain exclusive access to ACR preserves throughout Marin and Sonoma counties.
- Enjoy ongoing opportunities for advanced coursework, lectures and field training
- Receive a 20% discount at our bookstore.

Become a Docent

Complete these steps to become a docent at Martin Griffin Preserve:

Submit the application, available online at egret.org/volunteer_educate.

Reserve your spot at a Martin Griffin Preserve Docent Orientation Day. Orientation will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a brief overview of the program. Seasoned Martin Griffin Preserve docents will lead hour-long, small-group hikes and be available to answer questions. Orientation will be held on select Wednesdays and Saturdays in 2018:

- May 12 June 23 August 1
- May 30 July 21 August 18

Attend all sessions of the 24-week training, Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.– 2:00 p.m., beginning September 5, 2018 through the first week of March, (holiday exceptions). Trainees also observe experienced docents on the trails and in the classroom.

There is a materials fee (scholarships are available), and a no-cost background check is required to ensure the safety of children in our care.

Join Us!

Sign up at egret.org/volunteer_educate

