

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release | January 18, 2018
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Become a citizen scientist for local “wetlands watch” program ***Amphibians in region need your help*** ***Training sessions begin February 10***

WHAT:

How would you like to lend a helping hand to frogs, toads and salamanders in our backyard? You can by becoming a volunteer citizen scientist to monitor our ponds and wetlands through the Citizen Science Amphibian Monitoring program!



Over a six-month period, citizen science volunteers will monitor eight different species of frogs, toads, and salamanders in wetlands throughout western Washington, which may include Mercer Slough Nature Park, parks in Seattle and King County and, potentially, Snohomish County Public Works sites.

Volunteers are required to participate in a classroom and field training session on February 10 or February 17. Teens between ages 14 and 18 are welcome and encouraged to join a monitoring team with at least one other teen participant. Sign up for a training session at www.zoo.org/amphibianmonitoring.

During the field training, participants are equipped with hip waders, GPS units, aquascopes, and other monitoring tools as they learn how to identify and document egg masses of different amphibian species in a way that's safe for people, wildlife and habitats. Once trained, the volunteers will form teams and choose a wetland or pond to monitor on a monthly basis—recording data and taking photos of any amphibians they encounter.

The [Citizen Science Amphibian Monitoring](http://www.zoo.org/amphibianmonitoring) program is offered through Woodland Park Zoo's [Living Northwest](http://www.zoo.org/livingnorthwest) program, in partnership with Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Launched in 2012, the program provides much-needed data on amphibian populations for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The volunteer scientists gain knowledge of and appreciation for amphibians and their wetland habitats, and the skills to do relevant, hands-on scientific data collection.

The ancient class of amphibians includes salamanders, newts, an obscure group of legless creatures known as caecilians and, of course, the icons, frogs and toads.

WHEN/ WHERE:

Participants must attend one of the following training sessions:
February 10, 9:30 a.m.–noon at Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center in Bellevue or
February 17, 9:30 a.m.–noon at Camp Long in West Seattle

INFO:

To sign up for a training session, go to www.zoo.org/amphibianmonitoring. For information, email jenny.mears@zoo.org or call 206.548.2557.

Woodland Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and certified by the rigorous American Humane Conservation program. The Humane Certified™ seal of approval is another important validation of the zoo's long-standing tradition of meeting the highest standards in animal

welfare. Woodland Park Zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats through more than 35 field projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. By inspiring people to learn, care, and act, Woodland Park Zoo is making a difference in our planet's future ecological health and sustainability. Visit www.zoo.org and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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