

Dear Volunteer Instructor Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Aquatic Resources Education Program(AREP). You are probably wondering what it takes to get certified with our program so you can get involved in educating youth about our aquatic resources in Oklahoma. Below you will find the process for becoming an AREP volunteer.

Process for Becoming an AREP Volunteer

- 1 Print off the AREP Volunteer Instructor Packet.
- 2 Please fill out the entire application and send to: Damon Springer – Aquatic Education Coordinator, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation P. O. Box 53465 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152
- 3 Once your application is received a background will be conducted
- 4 If you pass the background check: you will be invited to a training course for certification.
If you do not pass the background check: you will receive a letter in the mail.
- 5 Attend a training course, completes paperwork (Title V1 and Agreement between vol. and ODWC forms)
- 6 Once training complete, they are considered certified AREP volunteers and can start helping with or conducting their own clinics under our guidelines.

Call to Volunteer Today! Help Teach Kids How To Fish

What is AREP?

In 1988, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation created the **Aquatic Resources Education Program (AREP)** to:

1. *Increase the understanding, appreciation, and awareness of Oklahoma's aquatic resources; and*
2. *Facilitate the learning of angling skills, outdoor ethics, and sportfishing opportunities in the state.*

What does AREP do?

Throughout the state, Department employees and volunteers provide information on how and where to fish through informational presentations.

Kids Fishing Clinics are the backbone of AREP!

Department employees and volunteers assist beginning anglers in learning how to fish by providing a Fishing Clinic. Youth groups, scouts, schools, and many other youth organizations have participated in AREP Fishing Clinics.

What do Fishing Clinics Teach?

Youth fishing clinics consist of an educational portion that teaches casting (including safety), water safety, knot tying, outdoor ethics, fish identification and tackle usage.

Following the educational portion participants are allowed to try their luck at a nearby fishing site. Rods, reels, and tackle are provided.

How can you become involved?

There are many ways to participate in AREP. The most common is to become an AREP **Volunteer Instructor** by attending a **FREE** Volunteer Instructor Training in your area.

This is also a great way for **civic organizations** and **fishing clubs** to introduce someone to the lifelong sport of fishing!

Call, **Damon Springer**, AREP coordinator at **405-990-9753** for more information, or

Email: dspringer@odwc.state.ok.us



INSTRUCTIONS: Complete application and forward to:
EDUCATION SECTION
P O BOX 53465
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73152

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
AQUATIC AND HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION AS A VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTOR

ARE YOU APPLYING TO THE (___) AQUATIC ED OR (___) HUNTER ED PROGRAM (Check one or both)

NAME _____ AGE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

Last First Middle (Optional)

GENDER Male ___ Female ___ RACE _____ Social Security # _____

(Optional) (Optional)

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ COUNTY _____

TELEPHONE(___) _____ (___) _____ May we contact you at work? ___ OCCUPATION _____

home work May we share your phone number with other ODWC Volunteers? _ Yes ___ No ___

EMPLOYER _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

EDUCATION LEVEL: High School 9 10 11 12 College 1 2 3 4 Other/Major _____

(Circle last grade completed)

Briefly list any clubs or memberships or related qualifications, training, skills, or interests _____

Hunter Education student number _____ (required for hunter education, but not for aquatic education)

Have you ever received a citation for violation of state and federal laws? Yes ___ No ___ Please describe in detail. Use separate sheet if necessary.

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of violence? Yes ___ No ___ Please describe in detail _____

Have you ever been charged with a misdemeanor or felony? Yes ___ No ___ Please describe in detail _____

If selected as a Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) volunteer instructor, I will volunteer the time necessary to teach classes in accordance with policies and procedures outlined by the ODWC. The ODWC may terminate or revoke certification if a volunteer fails to perform in accordance with policy outlined in the Volunteer Instructor Handbook. I further certify that, under penalty of perjury, I have not committed a felony or a crime of moral turpitude and that I will accept my responsibilities as an ODWC Volunteer Instructor. I understand that my misrepresentation or concealment of material fact will be sufficient ground for rejection of my application for certification. I also understand that a background investigation will be conducted as a part of this application process. I hereby authorize such action by my signature below.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

This program operates free from discrimination on the basis of political or religious opinion or affiliation, race, creed, color, gender, age, national origin, marital status or disability. A person who feels he or she may have been discriminated against or would like further information should write: Director, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152, or Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203.