

Descriptions of Volunteer Positions

There are over 70 volunteer positions within CVNP supervised by either National Park Service or partner staff. Use this information to explore other park volunteer opportunities. Volunteer applications are only accepted during the volunteer group or event's recruitment period.

Days of Service

Check www.nps.gov/cuva and click volunteer for this year's dates and registration information.

Earth Day- April

Family-friendly: Open to ages 10 and up. Projects are sometimes available for ages 7 and up.

Demonstrate your support of the environment by helping to enhance CVNP's biodiversity through habitat restoration projects like native tree planting and removing invasive plant species.

RiverDay- May

Family-friendly: Open to ages 10 and up. Projects are sometimes available for ages 7 and up.

RiverDay is a local event celebrating the improving quality of the Cuyahoga River. Improve the quality of the river by removing trash from the flood plains and restoring riparian zones.

National Trails Day- June

Family-friendly: Open to ages 10 and up. Projects are sometimes available for ages 7 and up.

American Hiking Society's National Trails Day is the country's largest celebration of trails. With more than 100 miles of trails CVNP is an asset to northeast Ohio. Help maintain and repair trails.

National Public Lands Day- September

Family-friendly: Open to ages 10 and up. Projects are sometimes available for ages 7 and up.

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands. Show your stewardship of natural resources, outdoor recreation, and the environment.

Make A Difference Day- October

Family-friendly: Open to ages 10 and up. Projects are sometimes available for ages 7 and up.

USA WEEKEND Magazine sponsored, Make A Difference Day, is currently the largest national day of community service. Help to preserve, protect, and enhance CVNP through a variety of projects.

National Park Service

Administration

Office Assistant

Help with short-term administrative projects, primarily document scanning and filing.

Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Services

Actor/Actress

Volunteers play a part in live history demonstrations (such as reenacting the Underground Railroad). Volunteers must have the ability to memorize a script.

Administrivia

Volunteers assist NPS and Conservancy staff with administrative duties, including mailings, phone calls, database entry, bookkeeping, and computer work. Volunteers should be organized, detail oriented, and have the ability to work well with others.

Canal Camp & Cuyahoga Critters

Volunteers board the train at the Peninsula Depot for the Canal Camp program, journey to the Canal

Exploration Center, assist in the operation of a historic lock, play historic games, and share stories. Cuyahoga Critters programs take place aboard Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. Volunteers also share American Indian stories about the animals that call Cuyahoga Valley home.

Cleveland Sight Center Program - Tandem Bike and Hike Assistant

Volunteers lead people who have little or no vision on hikes or tandem bike rides. Volunteers also assist with program set-up and tear-down and help with bike maintenance and upkeep. Volunteer must have the ability to walk and hold a conversation.

Crooked River Gang

Volunteers work cooperatively with the National Park Service to promote artistic creation and exhibition in CVNP. Volunteers also assist with the distribution of promotional materials, set-up and tear-down of exhibits, and staff exhibits featuring their own work.

CVSR Speakers' Bureau

Present a scripted program about CVNP to groups aboard the train. Volunteers must have excellent public speaking skills.

Cycling Schools

Volunteers assist in implementing bicycle programs on the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail for elementary-age students from the Cleveland and Akron areas. Programs focus on the history of Cuyahoga Valley as well as the importance of recreation as part of a healthy lifestyle. Interested individuals must enjoy working with school-age children. Volunteers do not need to be able to ride bicycles, but may be asked to assist with set-up and tear-down of program supplies and bicycles.

Go Crew

Volunteers assist with youth programming as needed, and work outdoors with youth of varying socioeconomic backgrounds. Must have verbal, nonverbal, and listening skills, enjoy working with people, and have the ability to handle stressful situations, follow directions, and provide customer service.

Health & Wellness Assistant

Attend community events to promote the benefits of being outside and CVNP's recreational opportunities.

Lantern Carrier

Lantern Carriers guide visitors through evening programs by the light of lanterns. The primary focus is visitor safety along the route.

Media Assistant

Volunteers help with media campaigns to promote CVNP and the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Duties include assisting with researching, updating media contacts, proofreading, database use, website content writing, and general clerical assistance. Volunteers must be proficient in the use of computers and internet applications.

Media Assistant - Milk Run and Bulletin Boards

Volunteers assist with distributing materials about CVNP, and help set up and maintain bulletin boards.

Park Ambassador

Park Ambassadors are expected to provide excellent interpretive, educational, and/or visitor services to CVNP visitors. Duties and responsibilities depend on your volunteer positions.

Community Engagement

Volunteers will present informal interpretation at community and organizational events that focus on health and wellness. Volunteers will assist the national park in introducing the park to under-served audiences and show how the park can help people achieve individual health goals.

Front Desk Assistant at the Conservancy Office

Interested in helping visitors in an office setting? The Conservancy Administrative Office can use a volunteer to answer the phone and greet visitors.

Hike Assistants

Assist ranger on park guided hikes or programs to enhance the visitors' experience in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Hike Assistants will hike outdoors in varying degrees of temperature and will wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Volunteer may carry up to 10 lbs. of equipment.

Lock 38 Demonstrators

If you are interested in canal history and would like an opportunity to provide others with a meaningful interpretive experience, then consider the possibility of being a Lock Presenter at Canal Visitor Center. Volunteers can lead formal interpretive talks outdoors at Lock 38 and indoors at a lock model inside Canal Visitor Center; and provide interpretive visitor services on the Towpath Trail to discuss Lock 38, the lock wrenches, canal boats, the historic operation of the canal and its many lift locks, life for canal boat families, historic games, the period clothing, and other appropriate park subjects. Volunteers will dress in 19th century style clothing. Non-speaking roles are available as Lock Operators.

Park Promoters

Promote Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Conservancy at on-site and off-site special events. On-site events include the Monthly Lyceum Series, Cuyahoga Valley Heritage Series Concerts, and Music in the Meadow. Greet guests; answer questions; engage them in conversations about the national park; promote ways for the guests to become more involved in the national park through the Conservancy operations including membership, Extraordinary Spaces, ParkShares, Trail Mix and Park Place in Peninsula, volunteering, and Trails Forever. Duties include carrying and lifting.

Paw Patrol

Provide an opportunity for park visitors to learn more about CVNP and the opportunities that canine companions can have along the trails. Through sharing personal experiences, dog related rules and regulations and general orientation and information, Paw Patrol helps provide a unique visitor experience and an opportunity to make contact with a well-behaved and trained canine volunteer and their owner. Duties include carrying reasonable literature, water and maintaining a safe environment surrounding themselves and their canine companion.

Roving Historian & Artisan

Do you have a talent for putting on a historical demonstration or just enjoy sharing with others something engaging about Northern Ohio history? Spring through the fall there will be opportunities to share informal interpretation either as a historical artisan or by engaging visitors through a variety of newly prepared activities that are both stimulating and educational.

Rail Rovers

Volunteers will present informal interpretation aboard CVSR on regularly scheduled runs. During the train ride they will distribute literature, share pelts, and answer questions about the national park.

S.E.T. (Special Events Team)

Assist rangers with on-site special events, including Monthly Lyceum Series, Cuyahoga Valley Heritage Series Concerts, and Music in the Meadow. Volunteer can help out in a variety of areas: directing traffic flow in the parking lot, taking tickets and operating the cash box, or serving refreshments.

Speakers' Bureau

Present a scripted program about Cuyahoga Valley National Park and its park partners to various organizations. Must have excellent public speaking skills.

Stanford Host

Greet visitors at welcome desk, provide general information regarding Cuyahoga Valley National Park, help guests feel welcome and informed, check-out groups, re-stock brochures, answer phone inquiries, assist staff in maintaining the Stanford House in a guest ready state, provide tours of home to interested groups, perform data entry, and if interested -garden and landscape around the grounds.

Trail Mix Shop Greeter

Assist retail staff in the operation of the stores by providing excellent customer service, greeting visitors, providing information/orientation, and provide First Aid/CPR when needed and maintain First Aid/CPR requirements. By keeping abreast of current park resources and issues, promote the national park and the Conservancy's operations to visitors. Rove between Trail Mix Peninsula and the Peninsula Depot to welcome visitors to Peninsula, encouraging visits to Trail Mix Peninsula. Rove between Trail Mix Boston and the Volunteer Management Office, answering questions and greeting visitors. Duties include carrying and lifting.

Visitor Center Assistants

Assist rangers with operation of visitor center, including: greeting visitors, providing information/orientation, operating radios, and completing Eastern National sales; will provide First Aid/CPR when needed and maintain First Aid/CPR requirements; and will keep abreast of current resource issues and maintain knowledge of park and its resources. Most work will be performed indoors in historic structures.

Wildlife Watchers

Rove at the Wildlife Watcher Station and at times on the park trails. Volunteer has direct contact with park visitors by providing informal interpretation about the park resources and at times giving directions. Reports visitor emergencies and responds to first aid

situations according to certification and training. Volunteer will lift and carry materials, work in variable weather conditions and hike all types of terrain.

Photographers

Take photos of assigned events, people, and other parkwide activities. Photos will be used in park and partner publication with proper credit.

Program Leads – Bird Watching and Boomerang

Volunteers lead interpretive recreation, nature, and history programs. Volunteers are elevated to this position after several years of experience and service.

Quest Crew and Quest Developer

Volunteers assist staff with field testing draft quests, managing quest boxes, constructing small structures in which to hide quest boxes, carving ink stamps, making logbooks, assisting with ranger-led questing programs, helping park staff make select quests available via geocaching or letterboxing websites, and assisting quest developers with background research. Volunteers may also develop one or more quests on approved sites within the Ohio & Erie Canalway.

Rail Rovers

Volunteers rove Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad during regularly scheduled runs and provide information to visitors. Volunteers also distribute materials about the park, answer questions, and share information about the park.

Student Explorer Assistant

Volunteers assist the National Park Service in presenting Student Explorer programming to school-aged children. Programs include Are We There Yet?, Underground Railroad, and All Aboard for Animals. Volunteers must commit to two programs a month.

Videographer

Capture video footage of assigned events, people, and other parkwide activities. Photos will be used in park and partner publication with proper credit.

Maintenance

Adopt-A-Trail

Volunteers assist the National Park Service in maintaining safe and well-groomed trails within CVNP. Volunteers participate in trail sweeps on the adopted trails and report the conditions to the National Park Service.

Buckeye Trail Association

Volunteers assist the association in promoting the construction, maintenance, and use of the Buckeye Trail within CVNP.

Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council

Volunteers assist in building, maintaining, and improving trails within CVNP using hand and

power tools. Volunteers also assist in clearing new trails, installing drainage, building bridges and steps, and performing vital maintenance.

Medina Ohio Horsemen's Council

The OHC is a volunteer group whose purpose is to help plan, promote, and participate in the building, inspection, maintenance, and improvement of equestrian trails in and around CVNP.

Resource Management

Citizen Scientist

Projects include inventory and long-term monitoring surveys for birds, butterflies, deer, beaver, amphibians, plants, moths, and aquatic resources. Work may involve hiking off trail and using a variety of scientific equipment to record data and observations. No specific knowledge or skills are required, but field identification and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) skills are helpful.

Database Manager

Volunteers help process data entry and administrative projects across the Resource Management division.

GPS and GIS Corps

Volunteers operate different Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to map trails, routes, and features of CVNP and assist with database entry.

Library Assistant – Historic Resource File

Volunteers catalog and maintain library materials, help with database upkeep, and scan historical documents to be added into the database.

Habitat Restoration: Invasive Plant Removal

Family-friendly: Open to ages 10 and up

Use hand tools (loppers and saws) to remove invasive shrubs, such as honeysuckle and autumn olive, and pile the cut vegetation. This project helps conserve biodiversity by creating space for native plants to thrive. Visit our Habitat Restoration webpage for details:

<http://www.nps.gov/cuva/supportyourpark/habitat-restoration.htm>.

Habitat Restoration: Native Seed Collection

Family-friendly: Open to all ages

Participate with a small-sized crew to collect seeds from native plants. Project includes a short, off-trail hike. Groups and families with kids welcome. Visit our Habitat Restoration webpage for details: <http://www.nps.gov/cuva/supportyourpark/habitat-restoration.htm>.

Wetland Monitors

Monitor water levels weekly at one or more selected wetlands throughout the park. Water level measurements are taken from water table wells constructed of PVC and well screen. Volunteers will hike off trail to each well location using a map or GPS.

Visitor and Resource Protection

Permit Monitors

Volunteers assist in providing services during weddings, such as making sure that visitors to the park do not interfere with wedding events.

Safety Instructor

Volunteers attend training courses and teach safety classes to park staff and volunteers. Volunteer safety instructors are responsible for maintaining safety training supplies in good order and reporting low supply levels to the supervisor. Volunteers teach a minimum of three classes per year. Volunteer must possess strong communication skills, including the ability to supervise a diverse group of participants.

Tract Trekker

Volunteers inventory land tracts by using maps, compass, global positioning systems (GPS), and cameras. Volunteers also record and observe any hazards or concerns related to park resources. Volunteers must have the ability to hike in rough terrain and use a digital camera, binoculars, measuring wheel, compass, radio, and GPS.

Trailblazer

Volunteer hike, bike, and horse patrols provide education, assistance, and information and act as role models for visitors. Volunteers provide law enforcement rangers with assistance by observing, recording, and reporting any activities that may be in violation of park regulations. Volunteers also provide first aid and CPR if needed, as well as basic bike maintenance and assistance with approved special events. Volunteers must have the ability to document pertinent information on a patrol log and understand how a volunteer may assist law enforcement staff and act accordingly in the field.

Visitor and Resource Protection District Operations (VRP Operations)

Volunteers provide assistance to the Visitor and Resource Protection Division by assisting with special events parking, inventory of equipment, traffic counts, inspections, posting signs, resource projects, fire inspections, and structure checks. Volunteers must have the ability to document pertinent information and to articulate how a volunteer may assist law enforcement staff and act accordingly in the field.

Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

CVEEC Program Assistant

Volunteers assist permanent staff members with various duties related to the implementation of the resident program and summer camp schedule at CVEEC. Duties include leading games or

creating bulletin boards to educate guests on a variety of environmental or seasonal topics. Volunteers also help maintain program supplies and may assist with office support as needed. Volunteers may also assist with starting campfires and leading night hikes. Volunteers must enjoy working with children and have patience and the ability to engage younger audiences.

CVEEC Program Volunteer

Volunteers will present curriculum-based education programs at CVEEC to school groups during the school year, especially September, October, April, and May, and to youth groups and families during the summer. Training will be provided for specific curricula.

Kitchen Assistant

Volunteers assist food service with food preparation and clean up before and after meal times.

Library Assistant

Volunteer catalogs library items at CVEEC in a manner that will enable staff to find the resources available. Volunteer also follows up on items that have not been returned, integrate new media items into the system, and remove those that are no longer used.

Office Assistant

Volunteers help at the Hines Hill office, Volunteer Management Office, and CVEEC Administrative Office. Projects include assistance with mailings, membership programs, special events, and ticket sales. Other duties may include picking up maps and brochures from park locations, organizing storage areas, data entry of volunteer hours and information. Necessary office management skills include organization, computer skills, telephone etiquette, working well with others, and professionalism.

Patio Patrol Gardening

Volunteers assist in maintenance of the flower beds, patios, and grounds at the Donor Garden at Hines Hill Campus and Trail Mix in Peninsula and Boston. Duties include but are not limited to weeding, trimming, mulching, raking, sweeping, planting, and pruning. This position requires kneeling, bending, carrying up to 25 pounds, and working outside for 2 - 5 hours. Hours are flexible.

Running Series Event Assistant and Crew Leader

Volunteers assist in the planning and implementation of the Running Series hosted by the Conservancy. Duties include reserving venues, preparing materials, gathering supplies and equipment, set-up and take-down, coordinating the parking plan, and promotion of the event. Volunteers must be well organized, self-directed, flexible, and require minimal supervision.

Tag Courier

Volunteers deliver TRAILS tags to specified locations throughout the park and the community.

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR)

Apply for positions through CVSR online, at www.cvsr.com/volunteer.

Brakeman

Volunteers perform all switching operations under guidelines or instructions of the conductor or engineer. The brakeman sets or releases the handbrakes on all cars. Volunteers must be aware of all conditions and activities on and around the train. The brakeman also performs both “terminal” (in-yard) and “intermediate terminal” (changing ends) brake tests in conjunction with the engineer.

Concessionaire

Volunteers assist with selling food, drinks, and souvenirs to passengers.

Conductor

Volunteers’ primary role is to be in charge of the train. The volunteer conductor is responsible for compliance with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations, CVSR rules, and CSX Corporation rules while on CSX property. The conductor takes direction from the director of operations or, in the director’s absence, the superintendent.

Engineer

Volunteers assist with the primary safety control of the train and run the locomotive under the authority of the conductor in accordance with all applicable rules. The volunteer engineer is in charge of the locomotive and cab.

Maintenance/Mechanical

Volunteers assist with coach and engine maintenance/repair as assigned under the supervision of CVSR staff. Duties assigned are commensurate with experience and knowledge.

Office Work

Volunteers perform typing, filing, and other clerical duties as assigned in the CVSR office.

The Polar Express™

Volunteers assist with the presentation of the Polar Express™ program. Elf positions include readers, assistants, servers, and workers at the North Pole. Volunteers are asked to commit to four evenings during the program, which takes place from November to December.

Trainman/Car Attendant

Volunteer trainmen are assistants to the conductor, and trainman duties are assigned by the conductor. The primary duty of the trainman/car attendant is to ensure the safety and comfort of all passengers. As such, volunteers must function as friendly, positive, and caring representatives of CVSR.

Countryside Conservancy

Apply for positions through Countryside online at <http://www.cvcountryside.org/give-volunteer.htm>.

Countryside Ambassadors

Ambassador volunteers act as the face of Countryside Conservancy distributing information about the Farms in the Park, Countryside U and the Countryside Farmers' Markets. Duties include manning the information booth at the farmers markets and/or helping Countryside meet representation requests by helping table various special events throughout the year.

Farmers' Market

Volunteers act as a public face and provide behind-the-scenes support for the farmers' market to enhance the market experience for customers and vendors. Duties vary depending on volunteer position, but can include assisting with parking, set-up and tear-down, cooking demonstrations, special events, event planning, customer counts, and photography. Volunteers also occasionally hand out literature about market programs and assist with customer or vendor surveys.

Office Assistant

Volunteers help with various in-office tasks as needed. Duties include data entry, file organization, shredding outdated files, and assisting with inventory management.