



Volunteers-In-Parks Program



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Welcome to the National Park Service

“....to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects, and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

From the National Park Service Organic Act of 1916

Our History

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act that created the National Park Service, a new federal agency within the Department of the Interior. The new service was charged with the protection of the 40 national parks and monuments then in existence, and those yet to be established. Yellowstone National Park was the first national public park, created by an act of Congress on March 1, 1872.

Our Mission

“The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.”

Our Charleston Area Parks

Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie

Three separate congressional acts contributed to Fort Sumter National Monument as it is known today. Fort Sumter was transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service by joint resolution of Congress on April 28, 1948. In this legislation, Congress established Fort Sumter National Monument, providing that it shall be “a public National Memorial commemorating historical events at or near Fort Sumter.” The National Park Service accepted jurisdiction of Fort Moultrie in 1960 under authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935. Additionally, the property for the tour boat facility at Liberty Square in Charleston was acquired in 1986 in order to provide needed facilities for visitors to Fort Sumter National Monument, including a tour boat dock and associated facilities. Today the boundary of the park encompasses 196.9 acres. The park also holds a scenic easement on 30 acres adjacent to Fort Moultrie.

Charles Pinckney

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site was established by an act of Congress on September 8, 1988. The legislation directed the Secretary of the Interior to “(1) provide the interpretation of the life of Charles Pinckney; (2) preserve and interpret Snee Farm, home of Charles Pinckney; and (3) present the history of the United States as a young nation.” A subsequent House of Representatives report elaborated on the site’s purpose by calling for the interpretation of the history of all the site’s inhabitants, enslaved as well as free. Most of original 715 acres of the plantation was sold off and developed years ago. Today, the National Park Service owns a 28 acre remnant of the Pinckney land, including the house site.

Short History of Fort Sumter

Fort Sumter stands on a manmade island just over a mile from Fort Moultrie. As part of our nation's Third System of Coastal Fortifications, it was designed to be a five-sided, three-tiered brick structure capable of housing 650 soldiers and 135 cannon. When combined with Fort Moultrie's guns, a deadly crossfire would effectively deny enemy ships access to Charleston Harbor.

Construction began in 1829 with the building of the island using approximately 70,000 tons of New England granite and rock. By the mid-1840's workmen began laying the first of about seven million bricks to construct the fort's 50-foot walls, officers' quarters and soldier's barracks. Finally by 1860, Fort Sumter was nearly 90 percent complete.

In November 1860, Major Robert Anderson, a Kentuckian by birth, was sent to Charleston with the unenviable task of protecting all Federal property in the city. Following the secession of South Carolina on December 20, 1860, Major Anderson saw the vulnerability of his headquarters at Fort Moultrie. Six days later he moved his tiny garrison to the still incomplete Fort Sumter. There, he and the 84 officers and men of the First United States Artillery began watch as Southern forces erected gun batteries encircling the harbor fort.

In early April of 1861, the new President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, decided to break the stalemate and attempt a reinforcement of Fort Sumter. Ships bearing troops and supplies left New York harbor enroute to Charleston. This action enraged many people across the South. The Confederate government decided that the reinforcement of Fort Sumter must be prevented. The countdown to conflict had begun.

At 4:30 a.m. on April 12, 1861, a mortar shell fired from Fort Johnson on nearby James Island illuminated the dawn sky over Fort Sumter. This shot was a signal to the other Confederate positions to begin bombarding Fort Sumter. The ships bearing the reinforcements arrived offshore of Charleston during the afternoon, but could not enter the harbor due to the ongoing bombardment of Fort Sumter.

With the reinforcements being held at bay and his food supply exhausted, Major Anderson had no choice but to surrender. The bombardment had lasted only 34 hours.

For the next four years Confederate forces defended the fort against Union attacks, amphibious assaults, and bombardments by heavy artillery that would eventually reduce the fort to a pile of rubble.

When General William T. Sherman's forces marched from Savannah, Georgia to Columbia, South Carolina in February 1865, he effectively cut off Charleston's defenders from the rest of the Confederate army. On the night of February 17, 1865, evacuation orders were issued. Federal troops reoccupied Fort Sumter the following day without firing a shot.

Virtually demolished in the Civil War, Sumter was partially rebuilt and rearmed in the 1870's. The fort received its last addition in 1898 when the construction of Battery Isaac Huger was commenced. This reinforced concrete fortification housed two powerful 12-inch breech-loading guns. In 1943, the guns were scrapped and replaced with anti-aircraft guns for the remainder of World War II. After defending Charleston Harbor through four wars, Fort Sumter was decommissioned in 1947.

Short History of Fort Moultrie

Throughout history, three different forts have occupied this site. The first, a hastily constructed palmetto log and sand fort, was built in 1776 to protect Charleston against the British Navy. On June 28, 1776 at 9:00 AM, a British fleet, under the command of Sir Peter Parker, began the advance toward Fort Moultrie. By day's end, the fort with its garrison of about 400 men under the command of Colonel William Moultrie had repulsed the British attack.

In honor of the Patriot victory, and Colonel Moultrie's role, the fort was named Fort Moultrie. Further, the palmetto tree, from which the fort had been constructed, became a state symbol and in 1861 the centerpiece of the state flag. This battle was the first decisive Patriot victory of the America Revolution and is remembered each June 28th as Carolina Day.

The second Fort Moultrie was built by the new United States Army in 1789. This five-sided earth and timber fort was part of the nation's first organized system of coastal fortifications. Unfortunately a hurricane destroyed the fort in 1804. The third and current fort was completed in 1809 as a formidable masonry structure. It has remained largely intact, with some interior modifications.

During the Civil War, Fort Moultrie became a formidable obstacle to Federal forces. Its powerful guns played a key role in the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter in April 1861. Between April 1863 and February 1865, both Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter defended Charleston Harbor as Federal land and sea forces laid siege to Charleston.

Following the Civil War, Fort Moultrie's appearance changed. During the 1870's modernization program, 50,000-pound Rodman cannon were mounted in the fort, as earth and concrete became the primary construction materials.

Starting in 1896, concrete gun batteries were built to hold new breech-loading rifled guns and mortars. The last construction at the fort took place in 1944 when the Harbor Entrance Command Post (or HECP) was built as part of the Charleston harbor defense system.

World War II brought about changes in military strategies and tactics. It proved the practicality of amphibious invasions along a shoreline, not depending on harbor or port attacks. This tactic and the development of carrier aircraft made coastal fortifications like Fort Moultrie obsolete. The post on Sullivan's Island was deactivated in 1947 after 171 years of coastal defense.

Many famous people have served or been held at the fort. Major Francis Marion was commander of the left wing of cannon during the 1776 battle and it is said he gave the command to fire the final shot of the battle. Osceola, a leader of the Seminole Indians, was held at Fort Moultrie in January 1838. He became ill and died on January 30. Today, he is buried next to the entrance of the fort. Edgar Allan Poe arrived at Fort Moultrie as a soldier in November of 1827. He was there for about a year before being transferred to Fort Monroe, Virginia. He used the island location as a setting for several short stories including *The Gold Bug*. Major General Abner Doubleday served twice at Fort Moultrie and was second in command of the Union forces in Charleston at the beginning of the Civil War. He was later erroneously identified as the inventor of American baseball. Finally, General George C. Marshall, then Colonel, commanded Fort Moultrie from June to October 1933. Later, he would become Chief of Staff of the Army during World War II.

Short History of Charles Pinckney

Charles Pinckney was born into a prominent Charleston family on October 26, 1757. His father was a wealthy planter, attorney, militia commander and politician. The Pinckney's were part of Charleston's social elite.

Young Charles received his basic education in Charleston. In 1773, when the growing unrest between Great Britain and the colonies disrupted Charles's plans to attend school in England, he stayed home and studied law with his father.

Charles's career of public service started in 1779 at the age of 21 in the midst of the American Revolution. After joining the South Carolina Bar, he represented Christ Church Parish in the General Assembly and, as a lieutenant in his father's militia regiment, took part in the abortive Franco-American attempt to retake Savannah, Georgia, from the British.

When the British captured Charleston in the spring of 1780, Charles and his father was arrested and imprisoned along with other American officers. Charles remained confined until June of 1781. His father, however, was freed after swearing allegiance to the British Crown, an action that saved the Pinckney estate, including Snee Farm, from confiscation.

In 1784, after serving briefly in the General Assembly, Charles Pinckney was selected as a delegate to Congress, then meeting in Trenton, NJ. In May 1787, he, his cousin Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Pierce Butler, and John Rutledge represented South Carolina at the Constitution Convention meeting in Philadelphia to address the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation.

Charles Pinckney took an active part in the debates and subsequently labored diligently for South Carolina to ratify the new Constitution, which it did on May 23, 1788.

Over the next ten years Pinckney held a variety of political offices, including president of the South Carolina State Constitutional Convention (1790), governor of South Carolina (1789-91, 1791-92, and 1796-98), and U. S. Senator (1798-1801).

During the nation's formative years, the Pinckneys were supporters of the Federalist Party. By 1795, however, Charles had come to view the Federalists as the party of the rich and well-born. Severing his ties to the Federalist party, he joined Thomas Jefferson's newly formed Democratic-Republican Party, championing the interests of rural Americans over those of the tidewater aristocracy. During the Presidential campaign of 1800, Pinckney was Jefferson's South Carolina campaign manager and helped him win the election. As a reward, Jefferson appointed him Ambassador to Spain, a post he held from 1801 to 1805.

Pinckney returned to South Carolina in January of 1806 and served briefly in the General Assembly before being elected to his fourth and final term as governor (1806-1808). In 1818, after a final term in the legislature and a brief retirement from political life, he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives, from which he retired in 1821. He spent his final years writing of his travels and political life. He died on October 29, 1824, at age 67, after more than 40 years of service to community, state and nation. He is buried at St. Phillips Episcopal Church in Charleston.

Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor

The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor was established by an act of Congress in 2006 after a Special Resource Study was conducted by the National Park Service. Part of the National Heritage Area network, the corridor spans 12,000 square miles from Wilmington, North Carolina southward, along the entire coasts of South Carolina and Georgia, ending in Jacksonville, Florida.

National Heritage Areas are places where natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representative of the American experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved with them.

The Gullah People

The Gullah are African Americans who live primarily in the Low Country region of South Carolina and Georgia, which includes both the coastal plains and the Sea Islands. The Gullah people are also called Geechee, after the Ogeechee River near Savannah, Georgia. The Gullah are known for preserving more of their African linguistic and cultural heritage than any other African American community in the United States. They speak an English-based creole language containing many words of African origin and significant influences from African languages in grammar and sentence structure. The Gullah language is related to Jamaican Creole, Bahamian Dialect, and the Krio language of Sierra Leone in West Africa. Gullah storytelling, music, folk beliefs, crafts, cooking, as well as farming and fishing traditions all exhibit strong influences from West and Central African cultures.

Modern Times

In recent years the Gullah people have been engaged in a struggle to keep control of their traditional lands. Since the 1960's, resort development on the Sea Islands has threatened to push Gullahs off of family lands they have owned since emancipation. They have steadfastly opposed uncontrolled development of the islands through community actions, the courts, and the political process.

Ensuring that crafts passed down from generation to generation do not disappear is another concern of the Gullah people. The making of sweetgrass baskets is a Low Country tradition that has endured the many changes of societal evolution. These hand made baskets, made of native sweetgrass, bulrush, palmetto and pine needles are sturdy enough to be used for utility purposes. The simple beauty and wide variety of basketry attracts area visitors and art collectors alike to the basket stands that have lined U. S. Highway 17 north of Mount Pleasant for over 60 years. The sustained popularity of the baskets helps ensure that this vital part of African heritage will survive for generations to come.

In 2005, the Gullah people unveiled a translation of the New Testament in the Gullah language, a project that took more than 20 years to complete.

The Future of the Cultural Heritage Corridor

Newly designated National Heritage Areas have three years to develop a management plan, which, upon completion, must be approved by the Secretary of the Interior. The planning process is ongoing. Interested individuals may visit the website: www.nps.gov/guge or contact Michael Allen, National Park Service Liaison, by calling (843) 881-5516, ext 12.

The Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) Program

On July 29, 1970, Congress approved the “Volunteers in the Parks Act of 1969.” Section 1 of the act reads as follows:

“That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to recruit, train, and accept without regard to the civil service classification laws, rules or regulations the services of individuals without compensation as volunteers for or in aid of interpretive functions, or other visitor services or activities in and related to areas administered by the Secretary through the National Park Service.”

Since 1970, the VIP program has consistently grown as its popularity has increased. In Fiscal Year 2007, 167,000 volunteers across the National Park Service contributed 5,400,000 hours of service (or 2,596 full time employees) valued at a record \$101,358,000. This total value is based on the private sector figure of \$18.77 per hour as determined by the Independent Sector and used by AARP, Points of Light Foundation, and other large-scale, volunteer organizations and programs.

VIP Program Mission

The central purpose and role of the National Park Service Volunteers-In-Parks Program is defined as:

“The National Park Service provides volunteer opportunities that are mutually beneficial to the volunteer and the National Park Service.”

VIP Program Guiding Principals

- *Engage citizens in preserving their natural and cultural heritage.*
- *Provide volunteers with opportunities for personal growth and fulfillment.*
- *Collaborate with partners.*
- *Foster excellence and diversity.*

What You Can Expect

- A formal application procedure.
- A contractual arrangement, including a work schedule.
- An orientation to Fort Sumter National Monument and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site.
- Training required to perform your duties.
- A job description.

Benefits include 15% discounts in Eastern National bookstore, a reciprocal pass allowing free access to many historic sites in the Charleston area, an increased awareness of South Carolina and American coastal history and an opportunity to meet new people.

What We Expect

- That you consider volunteer work as a professional commitment and view the position as an important function of the overall park mission.
- Represent the National Park Service at all times in an appropriate and professional manner.
- Be prompt and reliable.
- Communicate to the Volunteer Coordinator any problems or concerns.

Types of Volunteers

Fort Sumter National Monument and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site have two types of “Very Important People” in the Volunteer-In-Parks (VIP) program:

1. Local Volunteers
2. Recreational Vehicle (RV) Volunteers

The job positions, goals, major duties, qualifications and training are the same for both types of volunteers. The difference is that RV’ers volunteer more hours per week in exchange for a free RV site with full hookups at Charles Pinckney NHS. Please read the RV section for more details.

Volunteers have the opportunity to work at any of five different sites (either NPS or related) in the Charleston area:

1. Fort Moultrie (on Sullivan’s Island).
2. Fort Sumter National Monument (on an island in the harbor).
3. Charles Pinckney National Historic Site (in Mount Pleasant).
4. Liberty Square Visitor Education Center (in Charleston).
5. Patriot’s Point Naval and Maritime Museum (in Mount Pleasant). *Please note that Patriot’s Point is not a part of the National Park Service. Volunteers will work independently as tour leaders on board the concession operated ferries.*

There are a variety of job opportunities at each of the NPS sites. It is a goal of the park to match the park’s needs with the volunteer’s interests to ensure a positive experience for all. The Volunteer Job Descriptions section of this packet will give you an idea of the major volunteer opportunities. Please realize that this is not a complete job listing, job descriptions can be tailored to meet the volunteer’s and park’s needs.

Notice to Volunteers

Volunteers are not considered to be Federal employees for any purposes other than tort claims and injury compensation. Volunteer service is not creditable for leave accrual or any other benefit. However, volunteer service is creditable work experience.

Recreational Vehicle Volunteers

Commitment:

1. Lengths of stay: Minimum stay two months. Maximum stay six months.
2. Maximum 32 hours per week, **per person**. Couples are usually scheduled together unless they desire otherwise.
3. Willingness to work at more than one site per week.

Accommodations:

- Full hookups at no cost (electricity, water, sewer)
- Electric system is 30/50 amp
- Picnic table and deck at each site
- Washer and dryer (shared)
- Full size refrigerator w/freezer (shared)
- Private telephone line is available; volunteer will pay for connection and monthly service
- No other accommodations are available/provided

Location of RV sites:

Charles Pinckney NHS
1254 Long Point Road
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
Telephone (843) 881-5516
FAX (843) 881-7070

UPS and FEDEX packages may be sent to the above address.

U.S. Mail Address:

(Name of Volunteer)
c/o Fort Sumter NM
1214 Middle Street
Sullivans' Island, SC 29482

There is no U.S. Mail service to Charles Pinckney NHS. Please use the above address.

Pet Policy

Pets are always welcomed at the volunteer camping area. Pets must be confined to the inside of their owner's RV when the owners are not physically present. Outdoor pens or chains are not permitted. There is plenty of open space and trails for walking at the Charles Pinckney NHS.

Directions to Charles Pinckney NHS for RV'ers

From Savannah, GA:

- Take I-95 N to exit 33, Charleston via US 17 N.
- Follow US 17 N to I-526.
- Take I-526 E to Mount Pleasant.
- In Mount Pleasant, take the Long Point Road exit.
- Turn left onto Long Point Road and go about 2.4 miles.

From Columbia, SC:

- Take I-26 E to Charleston.
- Take I-526 E to Mount Pleasant.
- In Mount Pleasant, take the Long Point Road exit.
- Turn left onto Long Point Road and go about 2.4 miles.

From Myrtle Beach, SC:

- Take US 17 S to Mount Pleasant.
- Take I-526 W toward Savannah.
- Take the Long Point Road exit.
- Turn right onto Long Point Road and go about 2.4 miles.

Fort Sumter National Monument Volunteer Job Description

Title of Position: Visitor Center Assistant (Liberty Square)

Goal: To provide the visitor with an interpretive introduction to Fort Sumter National Monument and to facilitate a smooth visitor flow by providing directions to the ticket office, ferry landing and other on-site facilities.

Major Duties:

1. Staff the visitor center information desk, greeting visitors as they enter building.
2. Assist visitors by answering questions regarding ticketing, ferry boarding procedures and general area information, including directions to other area historic sites.
3. Supervise visitors in the exhibit area to ensure that exhibits are not climbed on or damaged in any way. Ensure that food, drinks and pets are kept outside.

Qualifications:

1. Basic knowledge of local history
2. Good communication skills
3. Ability to work with minimal supervision
4. Ability to work with people of all ages and cultural backgrounds

Uniform: NPS Volunteer uniform required

Time Commitment: Four hours per week minimum

Training:

1. Orientation to NPS Volunteer-In-Parks program.
2. Historic overview of local NPS sites.
3. Training in visitor center operations.
4. Safety training in relevant areas.

Fort Sumter National Monument

Volunteer Job Description

Title of Position: Fort Sumter Ferry Tour Leader

Goal: To provide a National Park Service representative on board the concession operated ferries in order to enhance to visitor experience.

Major Duties:

1. Board the ferry at least 5 minutes before departure time. Check in with the captain and make a welcome aboard announcement 1 to 2 minutes before departure.
2. Answer visitor questions enroute to the fort and on the return trip.
3. Provide a safety and orientation talk when nearing the fort, after the narrated history tape ends.
4. Accompany visitors into the fort and assist the rangers on duty with accessibility elevator operation, resource protection and other duties as needed.
5. Assist in clearing the fort of visitors prior to departure.

Qualifications:

1. Basic knowledge of local history.
2. Good communication skills.
3. Ability to work with minimal supervision.
4. Ability to work with people of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

Uniform: NPS Volunteer uniform required.

Time Commitment: Three hours per week minimum.

Training:

1. Orientation to NPS Volunteer-In-Parks program
2. Historic overview of local NPS sites
3. Orientation to the basic operation and safety policies of the concession operated ferries and visitor management and safety at Fort Sumter.

Fort Sumter National Monument

Volunteer Job Description

Title of Position: Visitor Center Assistant (Fort Moultrie)

Goal: To provide the visitor with an interpretive introduction to Fort Moultrie and Sullivan's Island in order to foster a better understanding of the significance of the fort and the island in local and national history.

Major Duties:

1. Staff the visitor center information desk, greeting visitors as they enter the building.
2. Collect NPS entrance fees, including purchases of Federal Recreation Passes.
3. Operate computerized cash register for Eastern National bookstore.
4. Operate audio-visual equipment to show the park's interpretive movie.
5. Assist visitors by answering questions regarding varied topics such as park history, on site facilities, and directions to other area historic sites.
6. Occasionally assist staff in preparing for and hosting special events. Tasks may include, but are not limited to: Setting up tables, chairs, stages, podiums, public address systems and other related items. May also assist with parking area control and directions.

Qualifications:

1. Basic knowledge of local history.
2. Good communication skills.
3. Ability to work with minimum supervision.
4. Ability to work with people of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

Uniform: NPS Volunteer uniform required.

Time Commitment: Four hours per week minimum

Training:

1. Orientation to NPS Volunteer-In-Parks program
2. Historic overview of local NPS sites
3. Orientation to visitor center operation, cash register operation, and simple administrative tasks.
4. Safety training in relevant areas.

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site

Volunteer Job Description

Title of Position: Visitor Center Assistant

Goal: To provide the visitor with an interpretive introduction to the life and political career of Charles Pinckney, including his major contributions to the formation of U.S. government. Also provide the visitor with an understanding of the plantation system and the lives and roles of Snee Farm's inhabitants, both enslaved and free.

Major Duties:

1. Staff the visitor center information desk, greeting visitors as they enter the building.
2. Operate the cash register for the Eastern National bookstore.
3. Operate audio-visual equipment to show the park's interpretive movie.
4. Assist visitors by answering questions regarding varied topics such as park history, on site facilities, and directions to other area historic sites.
5. Occasionally assist staff in preparing for and hosting special events. Tasks may include, but are not limited to: Setting up tables, chairs, stages, podiums, public address systems and other related items. May also assist with parking area control and directions.

Qualifications:

1. Basic knowledge of local history.
2. Good communication skills.
3. Ability to work with minimum supervision.
4. Ability to work with people of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

Uniform: NPS Volunteer uniform required

Time Commitment: Four hours per week minimum

Training:

1. Orientation to NPS Volunteers-In-Parks program.
2. Historic overview of local NPS sites.
3. Training in visitor center operation, cash register operation, and simple administrative tasks.
4. Safety training in relevant areas.

Fort Sumter National Monument and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site Volunteer Job Description

Title of Position: Maintenance Assistant

Goal: To preserve the park's historic and natural resources for future generations.

Major Duties:

1. Under the guidance of the Chief of Maintenance, assist or solely undertake restoration and preservation projects that fall under these general categories:
 - a. Carpentry (varied woodworking projects, doors and door frames, structure renovation, cannon carriage repair, picnic table repair, etc.
 - b. Masonry (brick laying, repointing and concrete work).
 - c. Historic iron preservation (rust and paint removal, priming and painting).
 - d. General appearance and preservation (painting and structural repairs)

Qualifications:

1. Demonstrate a proficiency in the specific area of work (one of the above categories).
2. Demonstrate safe operation of hand and power tools.
3. Be able to work independently or with park maintenance staff.

Uniform: Not required when engaged in projects. Personal Protective Equipment will be provided.

Training:

1. Orientation to the NPS Volunteer-In-Parks program.
2. Historic overview of local NPS sites.
3. Orientation to park structures, building histories and past renovation efforts.
4. Orientation to park work shops and tool locations: Sullivan's Island wood shop, garage and Battery 230. At Charles Pinckney, the wood shop in the barn.
5. Safety training in relevant areas.