

Prince William Forest Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Prince William Forest Park
Triangle, Virginia

Volunteer at Prince William Forest Park



Volunteers removing exotic plants within the park

In Brief

Prince William Forest Park, a unit of the National Park System, is a 15,000+ acre piedmont forest preserving a variety of natural and cultural resources 32 miles south of Washington, D.C. The park offers a variety of recreational opportunities, including 37 miles of hiking trails, over 21 miles of bicycle accessible roads and trails and numerous campgrounds. The park's cultural resources are varied and include historic cabin camps built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s and used by the Office of Strategic Services (predecessor to the CIA) during the Second World War.

Our Mission

To promote and regulate the use of the national parks..which purpose is 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 a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. -NPS Organic Act, 1916.

The National Park Service Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) Program was authorized (by Public Law 91-357) in 1970. The primary purpose of the VIP program is to provide a vehicle through

which the National Park Service can accept and utilize voluntary help and services from the public.

The major objective of the program is to utilize this voluntary help in such a way that is mutually beneficial to the National Park Service and the volunteer. Volunteers are accepted from the public without regard to race, creed, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

About our Volunteers

Volunteering is an American tradition that over the years has made an immeasurable contribution to communities, organizations and individuals throughout the country. A recent poll found that over one-third of the American public has been or is now a volunteer. Over half of those presently involved in volunteer work are also employed in full or part-time jobs. Today's volunteers are active, dynamic, creative individuals of all ages who possess the skills, desire, patience and time to accomplish a wide variety of tasks.

These volunteers come from every state and

nearly every country in the world to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. Young and old alike give of their time and expertise to assist our staff in achieving our national mission.

National Park Service volunteers are, without a doubt, Very Important People! Each year more than 120,000 volunteers donate over 4,000,000 hours of service in the U.S. national parks.

Compensation

Volunteer opportunities provide an opportunity to gain valuable experience in a professional work environment located in a national park. In addition, a small stipend is available for volunteers. In some instances, housing or a trailer pad may be available. All positions listed on the back page require the wearing of a National Park Service volunteer uniform.

For more information, please contact the visitor center at: 703-221-7181. Apply directly online by going to www.nps.gov/prwi and click on the "volunteer" icon.

A complete listing of volunteer positions are on our website at the following address:
<http://www.nps.gov/prwi/VIP.htm>

Volunteer Positions

Job Title: Adopt-A-Trail Volunteer

Dates: Year-round. Some trail segments will require inspection one day per month while others may only need to be inspected one day every three months.

Duties: Volunteers use hand tools (shovels, pulaskis, pruning shears, etc.) in repairing erosion controls, delineating trails, eliminating short-cut trails, constructing/repairing boardwalk, removal of vegetation covering trails, inspecting/repairing trail signs and litter pick-up.

There is also a need for general trail patrol and inspection.

Skills: Volunteers must be able to use common hand tools, be able to communicate with visitors and co-workers, must like working in the outdoors and be prepared for outdoor critters, such as ticks, snakes, spiders, etc. Ability to hike over rough terrain in inclement weather, and in remote locations.

Job Title: Visitor Center Volunteer

Dates: Year-round - as available

Duties: Work the information desk in the park's visitor center. Duties include: Greeting visitors, answering their questions, explaining the nature of the park, answering phone calls, responding to visitor correspondence, operating cash register, operating audio-visual equipment, and researching information for visitors.

Skills: Enjoy working with the visiting public, be courteous, polite, understanding, patient, articulate, and able to work with a diverse population of people. General knowledge of the park and experience handling money a plus, but not required.

Job Title: Interpretation Volunteer

Dates: Year-round-as available

Duties: The volunteer will research, develop and conduct programs for the public. These programs may be guided programs or impromptu programs at the visitor center. Programs will be on a variety of topics based on park themes. The prospective volunteer will staff the information desk at the visitor center, assist visitors in retail sales and other bookstore operations. The volunteer may also take on other projects including writing and editing and assisting with museum duties.

Skills: Ability to work with visitors of all ages and various ethnic backgrounds. Must be able to speak in front of visitor audiences of up to fifty people. Ability to write and work on computers with MS Office applications is a plus.

Job Title: Boundary Management Assistance Volunteer

Dates: Varied, please check with the park.

Duties: Aiding in posting boundary signs, clearing vegetation and assisting in locating survey posts and monuments. Weekday help a plus.

Skills: Outdoor hiking/walking experience and land navigation experience a plus. Must like working in the outdoors and be prepared for outdoor critters, such as ticks, snakes, spiders, etc. Survey experience and land navigation experience a plus.

Job Title: Campground Host Volunteer

Dates: Varied, please check with the park.

Duties: The host position assists groups during their encampment by answering questions, managing check-in and check-out, and providing assistance as needed. This position is an on-site job.

Skills: Organizational, people friendly attitude, willingness to work in a rural, rustic outdoor environment.

Job Title: Administration Volunteer

Dates: Varied - please check with the park.

Duties: Volunteers help with general office work including filing, copying, putting together employment information, and benefits packages.

Skills: Willingness to learn, people friendly attitude, office experience a plus, but not required.

Job Title: Maintenance Volunteer

Dates: Varied - please check with the park.

Duties: Park volunteers in maintenance perform a wide variety of duties as follows: Trail maintenance, lawn and landscaping, building maintenance, trail inventory and monitoring. Also, many related indoor and outdoor activities within the national park.

Skills: Outdoor experience a plus, but not necessary. Must like working in the outdoors and be able to tolerate outdoor critters, such as ticks, snakes, spiders etc. Maintenance background a plus, both indoor and outdoor, but not required.

*Note: This volunteer list is not all-inclusive. If you have a talent or skill not listed above, but feel it would be a valuable service to the park visitor, please let us know. Call the visitor center at 703-221-7181, which is open daily between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. A complete listing of volunteer positions is posted on our website at the following address:
<http://www.nps.gov/prwi/VIP.htm>*