

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield



Volunteer Wire



August 10, 2009

Moonlight Tour Sept. 12, 2009

Well, it's *THAT* time of year again. Yep - it's time for the annual Wilson's Creek Moonlight Tour! This year's tour will be held Saturday, September 12, 2009. Tickets are \$5.00 and proceeds are used to cover the cost of the program. Tours of 24 persons will begin at 6:45 p.m. and will continue every 15 minutes until 10:00 p.m. The length of the tour is 1 1/4 hours. Due to the terrain (including a series of wooden steps) wheelchairs and strollers will not be allowed. Tickets may be obtained in person at the battlefield visitor center or by mail (for a limited time). All mail ticket requests must be received by Friday, September 4, 2009 in order to be processed and returned via USPS mail service prior to the tour.

This year all of the various vignettes (total of four scenes) will be set up along the Wire road just below Stop #3 in a field adjacent to the metal bridge. The tour will represent events of early morning August 10, 1861. Visitors will be transported via buses from the visitor center to and from the tour site. In addition, those taking the tour should be prepared to walk a total of 3/4 mile and dress appropriately. No flash photography is allowed.

We are currently putting together a list of available volunteers to help during this special event. As usual we will be looking for volunteers to help with parking, answering questions at the information desk and gathering groups for the tour, etc. We are also looking for people who are willing to help at each of the various scenes. Please contact me at (417) 732-2662 ext. 385 or at dave_hutson@nps.gov to let me know if you are available to help. If there is a particular area you would like to work please indicate that when you call or email. We anticipate a lot of interest this year from some of our newer volunteers and as we make assignments we'll do our best to accommodate all request(s).

A VERY Special Thanks to all of the Volunteers who helped during this year's busy Spring School Season. During the months of April, May and June we were able to host 119 different schools, providing 277 curriculum based programs with almost 11,000 students in attendance. This could not have happened without the talented help or volunteers!

Upcoming Items of Interest

September 12 th	<i>Moonlight Tour</i>
September 26 th	<i>National Public Lands Day</i>
September 27 th	<i>PBS Premiere of miniseries "The National Parks: America's Best Idea"</i>
October 3 rd	<i>Symposium – "Living History in the National Parks" (TBD)</i>
November 14 th	<i>Annual Volunteer Dinner</i>
December 12 th	<i>Annual Memorial Illumination Tour</i>

Volunteer Policy Update

I recently attended a Regional Volunteer meeting where a couple of interesting items came up which might be of interest to each of you.

Reimbursement Reminder:

Many of you may recall earlier this year mileage reimbursement for volunteers was lowered to 14¢ per mile. Like many of you, I wondered why this change occurred (especially in light of the high cost of gas). It turns out the change was the result of an internal audit by the IRS. A determination was made (by the IRS) that anything in excess of the 14¢ per mile would need to be considered as taxable income. As a result, we cannot exceed that amount (even if you are willing to claim the excess on your taxes). It's also important to remember cannot claim mileage on your taxes report IF you receive reimbursement.

ALL requests for reimbursement (mileage, food, etc.) must be documented on a Reimbursement Request form (available in the front of the desk sign-in book) and requires your SSN and your signature.

Excerpt from the NPS Volunteer Strategic Plan – June 2009:

*“Volunteering is an American tradition that over the years has made an immeasurable contribution to communities, organizations and individuals throughout the country. Volunteers are vital to the success of the National Park Service (NPS). The Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) program can accept and use voluntary help and services from the public, in a way that is mutually beneficial to the NPS and the VIPs. Volunteers come from every state and many different countries to help preserve and protect America’s natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations..... At the program’s inception, there were 100 volunteers who provided interpretation at a handful of sites. These trailblazers gave presentations, tours and worked visitor center desks bringing a new level of involvement in the form of citizen-based stewardship. Parks, volunteers and the visiting public continue to benefit from the invaluable partnerships formed between the Service and volunteers. **These relationships ever strengthen the ability of the National Park Service to accomplish its mission.**”*

Serve America Act

*On March 31, 2009 the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act (H.R. 1388) received final passage by the House by a vote of 275-129 and authorizes nearly \$6 billion over five years – Fy10 through FY 2014. This new act is designed to create incentives for student involvement through the **Summer of Service** program(middle and high school students) as well as the establishment of four new service corps; **Clean Energy Corps, Education Corps, Healthy Futures Corps** and a **Veterans Service Corps**. In the months ahead we'll all be hearing more about the specifics of H.R. 1388 and the continued importance of volunteerism in the future.*



Jr. Ranger Day 2009



mmmmgood!



Very Interesting!