



Volunteer Newsletter

*Fall
Edition*

Wolf Trap Takes Home Top Honors in 2008 Take Pride in America National Award



Photo courtesy of Carl Sivertsen

Wolf Trap received top honors at this year's Take Pride in America award, winning the award for Outstanding Federal Volunteer Program! Volunteer supervisors and a handful of volunteers attended the award ceremony held on July 18th at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

Take Pride in America is a national partnership program aimed at increasing volunteer service on America's public lands. The goal of the Take Pride in America program is to empower volunteers from every corner of America to maintain and enhance our natural, cultural, and historical sites. This year, there were 11 National Award winners, representing projects and events in more than 8 states. The award winners were selected by a panel of independent judges from hundreds of qualified nominations representing outstanding examples of stewardship across the country. As volunteers at Wolf Trap, you are instrumental in the flawless operations that occur during the performance season. This is your award. Thank you for volunteering your time and skills, we couldn't have done it without you!

Eagle Scouts Help to Make Wolf Trap Comfortable for Visitors

As you walked around Wolf Trap this year you might have noticed the extra seating in the picnic area and Theatre-in-the-Woods. These handmade benches and picnic tables come to us courtesy of Eagle Scout Volunteers. Sean Jensen and Stephen Matthews, both local Eagle Scouts, volunteered over one hundred hours each this summer to make these much needed resting areas and handicap accessible picnic tables for our visitors.

In order to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout within the Boy Scout system, Scouts must demonstrate leadership and planning skills while volunteering for the local community. Each Eagle Scout candidate must spend at least one hundred hours planning, coordinating, and executing their project, however many projects often take more than the required one hundred hours. Sean and Stephen choose to volunteer their time at Wolf Trap helping to ensure the needs of our visitors are met. Sean chose to make new benches for the park. Stephen chose to create handicap accessible tables. These new seating areas will provide convenient rest spots around your beautiful park.

Eagle Scout Projects are a perfect example of the partnerships Wolf Trap makes with the local community in order to promote cultural awareness. We hope to encourage future partnerships with local youth and adult groups. If you know of any who would like to volunteer make sure to direct them to the Volunteer office.



Bench made by Eagle Scout Sean Jensen



Handicap accessible picnic table made by Eagle Scout Stephen Matthews

Holiday Sing-A-Long

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts will once again host the Holiday Sing-A-Long. The Marine Corps Band, "The President's Own", will play holiday music and the audience will be invited to join in song. This festive event will be held at the Filene Center on December 7, 2008 at 4pm. This performance is free and open to all. To help make this a successful event, we are asking for volunteer support. Whether you are a ranger volunteer, first-aid provider, or usher, we would appreciate your assistance during this holiday concert. Those who volunteer will receive a volunteer ornament as a thank you. Please contact the volunteer office if you are interested in volunteering for this



VIP and NPS Merchandise for Sale

Want to show your love of the National Park Service? Would you like an interesting way to show your volunteer spirit? Then check out the Arrowhead Store. This site offers a number of VIP and NPS merchandise items such as coffee mugs, stationary, and clothing that you can purchase to show your support. The below link will take you to the NPS Products page. These items are only available to NPS employees and volunteers. This is just one of the benefits of volunteering at Wolf Trap.

www.arrowheadstore.com

Passport to Your National Parks Photo Contest Announced

Each year Eastern National holds a photo contest for National Park Service employees and Volunteers-In-Parks in order to select ten new images for the collectible Passport To Your National Parks stamp series. These stamps, one national and nine regional, are on one perforated sheet and fit into the official Passport books which will be seen by visitors around the country. Only those parks which have not been featured in the Passport books in the past are eligible. Since Wolf Trap falls into the category we have an opportunity to show the world how beautiful the park is.

Those who would like to turn in a photo submission can do so by mailing their photo to Eastern National in Fort Washington, PA by October 30, 2008. All submissions must be reproduction-quality colors and must either be a 35 mm slide, color print, 4"x 5" transparency, or 300 dpi tiff file. Please do not send inkjet prints or low-resolution film as they will not be able to use these. Images will be judged on quality, interpretative merit, and appropriateness of the subject matter. Only ten submissions are allowed per individual. Contest winners will be announced in January 2009.

Submissions can be sent to: Eastern National Passport Photography Contest, 470 Maryland Drive, Suite 1, Fort Washington, PA 19034. If you would like more information on the contest please call the Volunteer Staff at 703-255-1893. Good luck to those who enter!

If you decide to enter the contest, please share your photos with us. We would love to add any photos taken by our volunteers to the Wolf Trap photo file. You could see your photo in this newsletter!



Volunteer Appreciation at Wolf Trap

Second Annual Ranger Picnic a Success!

On August 28th the park held its Second Annual Volunteer Ranger Picnic here at Wolf Trap. This Mexican Fiesta themed event was a wonderful success with 70 volunteers and their families in attendance.

The event helped celebrate the end of the performance season, but it also enabled the volunteers the opportunity to get to know each other in a non-volunteer environment.

During this event, volunteers tested their flexibility under the limbo stick, took a whack at a piñata, and boogied down to music provided by DJ Audrey Lonsway. A contest for "Best Dip" was held in which Monday night volunteer Adele Seifried took the top prize.

The staff at Wolf Trap would like to thank the Ranger Volunteers for making this years performance season a great success!



Volunteer Rangers sign in



Volunteer Rangers and their families enjoy Mexican inspired foods.



Volunteer Rangers enjoy a Mexican Fiesta.



Volunteers dance the night away.



Volunteer ushers enjoying the afternoon



Just some of the costumes worn at *Camille's Affair*

Camille's Affair Inspires Creative Thinking

This year's *Camille's Affair* events were held on Sunday, July 20th. These two events, held from 1-4 and 7-10, were a wonderful mix of fun and mystery, celebrating yet another successful performance season here at Wolf Trap. Members of the staff and volunteers dressed in costumes representing the different performances that took place during the 2008 season. Guests had fun trying to guess each others costumes and collecting bracelets.

Food was provided by the *Camille's Affair* fund and featured a mixture of appetizing salads, desserts, and delicious main dishes. Guests had fun testing their vocal stylings during karaoke. The night ended with dancing to music provided by a DJ. *Camille's Affair* was truly a wonderful event and we hope to see all of the volunteer ushers at next year's event.

The staff at Wolf Trap would like to thank all this year's volunteer ushers. We could not have done it without you!

Alice Chessnoe Makes a Difference at Wolf Trap

Alice Chessnoe has been volunteering at Wolf Trap since 1982, and while she might not be the longest running volunteer we have, she has done something very interesting. Alice has managed to recruit eleven volunteers and looks to recruit two more for the upcoming season! As all of you are aware, this is no easy task. How does Alice do it? Why, over dinner.



Alice has combined her love of volunteering and socializing into a unique way to recruit new volunteer ushers and it seems to be working. Alice, and those she has recruited, have bonded over the years. They love to get together to socialize and celebrate the end of the season. It is because of this unique bond between Alice and her friends that those she recruits keep on coming back.

Alice first learned about Wolf Trap through the mother of one of the children she provided daycare for. Alice and a few of her friends decided to give it a try. Alice had extra time and loves entertainment, so Wolf Trap became the perfect fit. To this day Alice still carools with those who originally joined with her in 1982. And while she has had a number of different positions over the years, it is the fellowship and events like *Camille's Affair* that keep her coming back. And it is this mixture of fun and entertainment that will keep Alice coming back for as long as she can. Alice is a true example of what being a Wolf Trap volunteer is all about.

Mark your Calendar...

December 7 – Holiday Sing-A-Long

Special backstage tours for all 2008 Wolf Trap Volunteers are scheduled for this spring. Please feel free to invite family and friends to see where you volunteer. These walking tours are approximately an hour and a half in length.

Reservations required – please call (703) 255-1893.

Volunteer Tour:
January 24 – 1pm

Public Tours:
Oct 25 – 11 am Nov 15 – 11 am
Dec 13 – 11 am Jan 3 – 11 am

Additional tour dates will be added soon.



Did you know? Wolf Trap's Volunteer Website:
www.nps.gov/wotr/supportyourpark/volunteer



New Volunteer Coordinator at Wolf Trap

Wolf Trap would like to welcome its newest staff member, Christie Brown, who is the Park's Volunteer Coordinator. In this new position, Christie is responsible for planning, developing, and executing all aspects of Wolf Trap's volunteer program. Audrey Lonsway, the park's Chief of Interpretation, who managed the program prior to Christie's arrival, will now shift her focus entirely towards interpretive and educational activities but says she has greatly enjoyed working with the volunteers and hopes to see the program expand.

Christie comes to us from Bluffton, SC where she worked for the Bluffton Historical Preservation Society as the manager of the Heyward House Historic Center. In this capacity, Christie managed the daily operations of the Heyward House to include its Volunteer Program. Prior to working at the Heyward House, Christie spent three years in the United States Air Force as a Logistics Officer. She is married to Lance Brown who is stationed at Quantico Marines Corps Base. Christie is very excited to be at Wolf Trap, so please be sure to say hello and welcome her.



Volunteering Can Get You an “America the Beautiful” Pass

We all know volunteering is fun but did you know it can be rewarding too? The “America the Beautiful” Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program gives any volunteer who reaches the goal of 500 volunteer hours a free admissions pass to any one of the following agencies: Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, and the National Park Service. This program is designed to thank volunteers for all that they do. The pass is good for one year and can be used more than once. If you would like to participate in this wonderful program all you need to do is log onto <http://www.volunteer.gov/gov/vt/> and sign up. It is your responsibility to track your hours for this program. However, we will still be tracking the hours you volunteer at Wolf Trap in our own system, even if you sign up for this program. Remember this is not mandatory and there is no time limit. You can reach the goal of 500 hours in one month, one year, or ten years. It’s all up to you! For more information about this program or to sign up please go to their webpage. This is a wonderful way to experience the natural and historical wonders of our country for free!

Volunteering Always an Option at Wolf Trap

Even though the performance season has ended, that doesn’t mean we stop thinking about volunteering. Now is a good time to take another look at the volunteer opportunities available here at Wolf Trap and prepare for next year. We would like to take this time to just remind you about all the volunteer possibilities open to you:



- Usher: pass out programs and guide patrons to appropriate seats and services
- Ranger: drive carts, information kiosk attendant, greet patrons, and provide pedestrian /cart safety
- First-Aid Provider: qualified first responders who provide first aid services to patrons in need
- Stage Door Aide: assist stage door production staff
- Children’s Theatre-in-the-Woods: take tickets, seat patrons during childrens performances, and drive carts
- Roaming Ranger: assist guests by answering questions; this is a mobile position and roams around the picnic area.
- Park Cleanups: assist with park clean up after events or performances
- Administrative Assistance: assists in filing, mass mailings, and various other administrative tasks.

Summer by the Numbers

Another successful performance season has come and gone. Hundreds of volunteer ushers and rangers assisted visitors in a number of different ways, during many different performances and events. Let’s take a look back and see what we did.

Usher Volunteers: 764 ushers
29,602 hours

Ranger Volunteers: 67 rangers
1,846 hours

Theater-in-the-Woods Volunteers: 48 volunteers
1,099 hours

First Aid Volunteers: 17 volunteers
909 hours

If you combine these performance numbers with other volunteer activities this season you will see that a total of 1,159 Wolf Trap volunteers worked a total of 38,047 volunteer hours for the park. This is an incredible accomplishment and you should all be proud. You are all amazing!



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts
 1551 Trap Rd.
 Vienna, VA 22182

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Wolf Trap’s Volunteer Newsletter highlights the 1,100 volunteers that contribute their time to the National Park Service at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts.

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Contributors
 Audrey Lonsway and Christie Brown

Comments? Ideas for the spring newsletter? Write to:
 Christie Brown
 Wolf Trap National Park
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 Vienna, VA 22182

Wotr_volunteer@nps.gov
 Include “Newsletter” in the Subject

Website:
www.nps.gov/wotr

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

A Park For All Seasons

After the final bows have been taken and the sound of applause fades from the park, visitors still have the opportunity to experience Wolf Trap. With cooler temperatures and the beautiful natural setting – the fall leaves put on their own show.

Backstage tours for the public are offered from October through March. Education programs are also offered on a variety of topics. These curriculum-based programs enhance lessons learned in the classroom. Details available at www.nps.gov/wotr.

