

# Volunteers In Parks

## Job Description Sheet

Volunteers assist the National Park Service in many ways including visitor center operations, resource management projects, research work, cultural and natural history programs, clerical assistance, historic restoration, park maintenance, and more.

**All VIPs must be provided with a Job Description Sheet.**

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**Job Title:** BioBlitz Citizen Scientist, Buffalo National River

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### **Job Description:**

The BioBlitz volunteer will work during this outdoor event. Two (2) teams of 10 citizen scientists will be led by scientists from the University of Arkansas, Missouri State University, and the National Park Service. The goal of the BioBlitz is to collect vital data during an 8-hour period within our taxonomic focus groups using scientific methods.

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### **Skills Needed / Preferred:**

- walking, lifting up to 20 pounds (estimated for some projects)
  - use of basic tools
  - working outdoors in a variety of weather conditions
  - basic knowledge Buffalo National River
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### **Goals / Outcomes of Job:**

Assist scientists in collection of biological specimens using scientific methods to help increase the knowledge of biodiversity within the park.

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### **Benefits to Volunteers (note training if applicable):**

- Gain scientific knowledge and experience with the National Park Service; ability to “give back” to the National Park Service; opportunity to stay fit by conducting various light duties
  - Must attend pre-event safety meeting, morning (9am) of Saturday, October 18, 2014.
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### ***Safety Notice:***

Natural Resource VIPs will be working outdoors in a variety of weather conditions, including hot & sunny days, stormy weather, rain, cold, etc. There is potential for excessive exposure to sun, so the VIP must take precautions, including sunscreen, a hat, and limited time in the sun. There is a potential for becoming dehydrated or overheating, so the VIP should carry plenty of water (provided) and drink regularly while working outdoors at the park.

Other safety hazards include snakes, ticks, chiggers, mosquitoes, poison ivy, briars, lifting heavy items without assistance. Please use common sense and take every precaution and keep yourself safe. If in doubt, please check with park staff. The VIP must not work outdoors in the likelihood of lightning, whether or not a storm is in progress. In an emergency, VIPs should take shelter inside the visitor center. If Marion County is under a severe weather warning (tornado, thunderstorm, excessive heat) from the National Weather Service, VIPs should not be working anywhere outdoors. Shelter should be taken immediately.

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**Minimum Commitment:**

Saturday, October 18, 2014, all day, possibly into early evening

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**Firearms Statement:**

Under 43 C.F.R. § 20.511, Departmental volunteers in the course of their official duties are prohibited from possessing firearms on property under control of the Department. Because of the stated purpose of the sponsors of Section 512 to provide uniformity under applicable state law from bureau-to-bureau, the potential liability issues that could result, and the absence of any criminal penalties applicable to this regulation, this Departmental policy continues to apply to all NPS/FWS employees and volunteers during their official duties. Volunteers who are not on official duty may possess firearms on Departmental lands under the same conditions applicable to members of the general public, according to P.L. 111-24, Section 512. For this purpose, volunteers are considered the same as other employees when engaged in their official activities.