



# Boat Crew Volunteers

## Recruitment under way for living history volunteers for Georgetown and Great Falls Boat Crews

The C&O Canal National Historical Park is currently looking for dedicated volunteers to work alongside park staff as living history interpreters on the two canal boats in the park, *The Georgetown* and the brand new *Charles F. Mercer*.

Join the park's Volunteers-In-Parks Program as costumed members of the boat crew. This is an excellent opportunity to work outdoors and share a love of history while educating the public on life during the canal era. Volunteers work with park rangers to give visitors a glimpse of the past when mule power moved goods and people along the canal from Georgetown to Cumberland. Volunteers may choose to serve out of the newly-renovated Georgetown Visitor Center or at the Great Falls Visitor Center. The *Charles F. Mercer* was built to replace the *Canal Clipper*, which carried visitors for thirty years.



*Charles F. Mercer* packet boat and crew at Great Falls Visitor Center

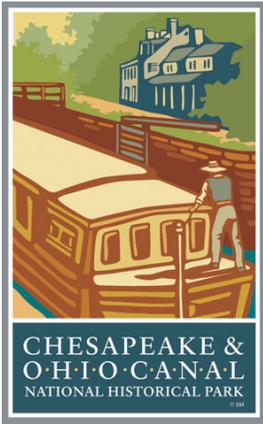
Volunteering as a boat crew member is a very rewarding, enriching experience, as well as a way to serve the community.

Park Ranger Warren Kasper has these thoughts about being on the boat crew:

*“Working the canal boats is a challenge with a unique set of rewards. It is an opportunity not to read about the past, but to live it. The experiences of leading mules, piloting a boat, or operating a lock gives me the opportunity to peel away the years and share an experience with someone from the past. It is a chance to live at the speed a mule walks, a refreshing change of pace in a world that gets faster every day.”*



*The Georgetown* and crew above Lock 3.



# Help Us Work the Boats



## Living History

Often the best way to connect people to the past is to live it! Step back in time and help others experience the 19<sup>th</sup> century by operating a mule-drawn canal boat on the C&O Canal. Work alongside the park's mules – Molly, Ada, Ida, Lil, Nell, and Ellie would love for you to join them! Work the lines or the tiller. Work the lead mule or the back mule. Stay onboard and tell a story or play a song. The C&O Canal tells many stories – westward expansion, labor history, immigration, transportation and technology, and the American Industrial Revolution. Play a part in this epic tale while “decked out” in period clothing. You will enjoy hands-on training in the practical art of working a replica boat through historic lock structures. The operating season begins in April and ends in October. Boats run 2-3 times per day. We have flexible schedules and are looking for a regular commitment from our volunteers. The National Park Service honored the C&O Canal's Volunteers-In-Parks Program as Outstanding Park Volunteer Program in 2005 due to the dedication of its volunteers.

Want to Help?

Please contact David Tune, Park Volunteer Coordinator  
**301-714-2233** or [david\\_tune@nps.gov](mailto:david_tune@nps.gov) for further information.

Visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/choh](http://www.nps.gov/choh)

