



Valley Volunteer



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Why I Volunteer

Words from a few of our 5,900 volunteers paint a moving portrait of how park experiences enrich their lives.

Volunteers are a wonderful group who help others without asking anything in return. But, just because I haven't asked for anything in return doesn't mean I haven't received anything in return. I have new friends, new knowledge, and a new purpose.
— **Geoffrey Neeson**

Being in the park is peaceful, restful, yet wondrous! Seeing that wonder awaken in our visitors' eyes as they explore the park with us is magical! — **Marnie and Mike Sanders**

We enjoy volunteering because we have the privilege of working with the dedicated, appreciative staff. Also, being able to share this amazing park with others is energizing and fun.
— **Pat and Bill Bourquin**

My faith in humanity is reaffirmed by seeing how people genuinely love Cuyahoga Valley and give of themselves to ensure it remains one of the best national parks in the country. I am thrilled to know that I am, in a small way, a part of that.
— **Sue Simenc**

Being a volunteer shows me that beauty is found every day, inspiration is just a moment away, knowledge is often applied, and curiosity is rarely satisfied! — **Robin Kirk**

Sue Simenc.

Volunteering has not only allowed me to interact, share, and teach visitors about the natural world and the wonderful gift we have that is the CVNP; it has also allowed me to rejuvenate and grow personally. — **Stephen Metzler**

I am not just a volunteer when I fulfill my hours each week. I am a PR department of one, always talking about the park. If my enthusiasm causes others to experience this magnificent natural resource at least once, their own enthusiasm will bring them back. — **Libby Wolf**

Being a volunteer has many rewards, especially helping someone in need. My greatest reward is knowing that my observation of an elderly lady in need and getting her assistance possibly kept her out of harm's way. — **Ken Sabol**

One of the great things about volunteering is the opportunity to pursue so many different interests and passions. Volunteering allows me to enjoy all the park has to offer while sharing my love of the park with others. — **Bernie Charnas**



NPS/TED TOTTH



NPS/TED TOTTH

Bernie Charnas (left) and Ken Sabol (right).

Inside Scoop



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

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

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park's (CVNP) volunteer program is co-managed by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Other primary partners include the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and the Countryside Conservancy. Together, we accomplish park and partner goals through mutually beneficial volunteer experiences and engage people in the park, building a community of park stewards.

Currently more than 5,900 Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs) donate more than 202,400 hours assisting in over 100 different roles. We rely on these dedicated people to provide the highest level of quality services to our visitors and to help us protect America's heritage.



NPS/TED TOTH

Volunteers Shape Trail Plan

Lynn Garrity - Outdoor Recreation Planner

During the development of the 2012 Trail Management Plan, many people shared stories about creating the original 1985 Trail Plan, a process that epitomized the citizen involvement upon which the national park was founded. Twenty-five years later, the process and procedures for citizen involvement in trail planning are far more complex. In a variety of ways, volunteers and others made valuable contributions.

Public Comment Periods

More than 200 people participated during the three-year planning process through scoping workshops, public meetings, and comments to the project website. Park volunteer groups and individuals were among those who spent many hours reviewing documents and providing input.

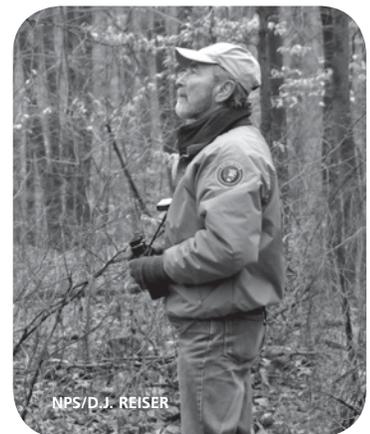
Trail Exploration Crews

Crews included a wide variety of trail users who provided park staff with valuable insights and experience. They explored potential areas for new trails that were identified during the public scoping phase.

Data Collection

Volunteers were pivotal in gathering the information needed to assemble the Trail Management Plan. Data collection included counting users on the trails, assembling bird count data by location, and assisting with mailings to public officials.

As the Trail Management Plan becomes finalized and approved in 2013, our focus is shifting to implementation. This challenge will require a growing breadth of volunteer expertise, hard work, and passion that has its roots in park establishment. We look forward to working with you in the coming years.



NPS/D.J. REISER

Volunteer Dwight Chasar provided critical bird distribution data.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting.



Hyre students in action.

Service Learning in Action

Josh Bates - Park Ranger (Interpretation)

In November 2012, over 120 sixth grade students and staff from Hyre Community Learning Center, an Akron public school, got a little dirty studying soil as a service learning project. Armed with chemical test kits, tablet computers, and notebooks, the sixth graders tested the soil at two sites on Bath and Highland roads where the park had recently planted native vegetation. The students provided the park with current data on pH, phosphorous, and nitrogen levels. Using this information, the students suggested how to amend the soil and what native vegetation might be best suited for the current soil conditions.

The students from Hyre Community Learning Center did such amazing work that Plant Ecologist Chris Davis and Park Ranger Josh Bates, who coordinates the Service Learning Program, believe that this type of student project can be a model for sites being evaluated for future re-vegetation.

Josh Bates Captures Regional Award

Park Ranger Josh Bates provides youth with a way to connect what they have learned in the classroom to real world experiences. In developing the national park's Service Learning Program, he engaged about 1,550 students and 350 adults in park projects during fiscal year 2012. His work earned him the Freeman Tilden Award for the NPS's Midwest Region, which is one of the highest honors for an NPS interpreter.

As the program coordinator, Josh works creatively with youth participants and their teachers to design projects that address problems facing the national park. Since the Service Learning Program began three years ago, groups have removed invasive plants, constructed a butterfly garden, planted native vegetation, and accomplished numerous other goals. (The above article highlights one example.) "These students are the next generation and it is important to engage them right now," he commented.

Safety Officer Arrives in Park

Joyce Jordan is the newest member to the NPS management team and the park's first full-time safety officer. After graduating from Cleveland State University, she worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in numerous states. Most recently, Joyce served as a safety engineer for construction, operations, and maintenance activities in the Baltimore district. As a hands-on safety professional, she supported contractors and field representatives.

Pleased to be a part of NPS with a new and exciting mission, she stated, "Part of my role as the park's safety and health professional is assessing the current safety and health program, and working with others to develop an increased culture of safety awareness. I look forward to encouraging volunteers to remain active in CVNP's safety and health activities, and to helping them understand what hazards they may be exposed to while working as a volunteer."

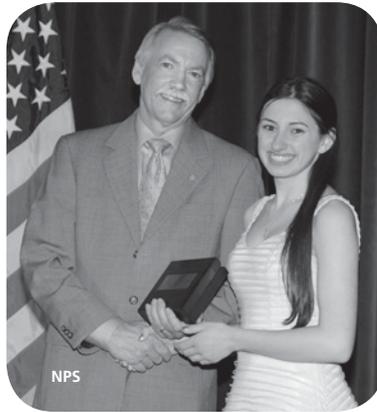


NPS/LYNETTE SPRAGUE-FALK

In the Spotlight

Brianna Machuga Wins National Award

We are very proud of Brianna Machuga for winning the 2012 George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service – Youth after being selected as a regional winner in October 2012. Presented by NPS Director Jon Jarvis, this is the most prestigious award that an NPS volunteer can earn. Brianna volunteers as an actress and assistant for youth and CVSR programs. In 2011, she led a project that collected 140 coats for local homeless shelters. She commented, “To me volunteering is something I intend to do for the rest of my life.” Brianna attends St. Vincent - St. Mary High School.



Making Memories for Kids

Robin E. Kirk - Education Volunteer

“I heard the whistle in the distance—the train is coming!”

“Did you see that bird?”

“That tree is growing out of the stone. How does it grow there?”

Excitement fills the air when young visitors get a chance to ride a train or run to their hearts’ content in seemingly gigantic open spaces. They learn to play games that children enjoyed long ago—games that exercise more than fingers and thumbs. President Lyndon B. Johnson once said, “If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning . . .” Listening to a park ranger tell stories about wildlife, singing traditional songs, learning survival skills of past people, and seeing a heron catch a fish—these activities offer such glimpses.

The national park offers diverse programming for children, whether they come with family or with their school. If you enjoy working with kids, get involved. Fun and learning really do go hand in hand for the visiting child and volunteer alike.

Practice Safety Around Motor Vehicles

Lois Neff - Park Ranger (Protection)

In 2010, there were 70,000 pedestrians injured by motor vehicles, part of an upward trend. Whether walking or working around vehicles, these guidelines will help you be safe. Parking VIPs, pay special attention!

- Be aware of your surroundings. Look around often.
- Watch for turning vehicles at crosswalks.
- Always walk facing traffic. Never turn your back on approaching vehicles.
- Make eye contact. Never assume that a driver sees you.
- Signal using exaggerated hand movements.
- Stand off to the side of a vehicle, not directly behind or in front, even at low speeds.
- Wait until a vehicle has completely stopped and the motor is turned off before you approach.
- Keep your feet away from the path of tires.
- At night or in low light, wear high-visibility, reflective clothing and use a headlamp, flashlight, or traffic wand.



CVEEC Internship

Erin Bauer - Education Programs Intern

The Field Instructor Internship at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC) shapes a diverse group of college graduates into a team of confident, capable environmental educators. Concrete teaching experiences, certification courses, and unique professional development opportunities build the knowledge and skills required to lead a myriad of educational programs. Working within our fun camp atmosphere, interns focus on instilling the concepts of sustainability and environmental stewardship in visiting students. Memories of living, learning, and working in Cuyahoga Valley National Park add up to a truly incomparable and unforgettable internship. To learn more about intern life, read our *Experiences at CVEEC* blog at cveec.wordpress.com.





For detailed information about volunteer training, visit www.nps.gov/cvnp and click "Volunteer/Volunteer Training." The park's *Volunteer Handbook* (pages 31 - 32) and the *Volunteer Safety Training Appendix* list what courses are required by volunteer position. To register, reply up to three business days before the class to volunteer@forcvnp.org or 330-657-2299. No registration is needed for the *Enrichment Series*.

Learn to Drive Defensively

The NPS Defensive Driving course provides experienced drivers with practical guidelines for avoiding accidents. Everyone who drives a government vehicle is required to take this course before they get behind the wheel and renew their certification every three years. This training can be done in class or via DVD (available through the volunteer office).

First Aid and CPR Classes

Two levels of CPR and First Aid training are available for volunteers whose duties include responding to a medical emergency until professional help arrives. Each certification is good for two years. In the First Responder class, volunteers learn hands-only CPR, First Aid, and blood-borne pathogens safety. The more comprehensive CPR/AED/First Aid class includes full CPR, AED use, First Aid, and blood-borne pathogens safety.

First Responder

Saturday, June 1
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sunday, November 10
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

CPR/AED/First Aid

Sunday, June 2
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday, November 9
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Enrichment Series

On the second Tuesday of every month, the Volunteer Enrichment Series provides up-to-date information so you can excel as a park steward. Meet at Happy Days Lodge, except for our field trips to Halko's Spring Hill Farm (June 11) and Ira Trailhead (September 10). Refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m. and lectures are from 7 - 8 p.m., unless otherwise noted. On May 14, August 13, and November 12, refreshments begin at 6 p.m. and are followed by a volunteer awards presentation prior to the lecture.

Managing Risk

"The Operational Leadership course is the most significant training of my CVNP volunteer experience to date," said Trailblazer John Newby. "This cultural and behavioral training is designed to bolster participation by all team members, enhancing safe individual and team performance." Supervisors will notify volunteers if and when their positions are scheduled to take a risk management class.

Volunteer Orientation

This orientation provides an overview of the NPS, CVNP, park partners, and the Volunteers-in-Parks Program and provides prospective volunteers with resources on how to get involved. New volunteers are required to take this orientation within their first six months of volunteering. It is offered throughout the year.

Training in Interpretation

Foundations of Interpretation

provides the philosophical groundwork for why we do interpretation, what interpretation is, and how interpretation works to form

personal connections between the meanings of the resource and the interests of the audience. This is a prerequisite for other interpretation classes. It is offered multiple times in the spring.



Informal Visitor Contacts captures the spontaneous types of interactions interpreters have with visitors, whether informational or interpretive. It is offered multiple times in the spring.

These classes are also available online.

Milestones & Transitions



VIP Jerry Finnell Wears Many Hats

Chris Studor - Wildlife Watcher

There's hardly a CVNP volunteer position that Jerry Finnell hasn't tackled during the past 16 years. Jerry began volunteering when he retired in 1997 and is still going strong, reaching the 4,000-hour milestone in 2012.

In his early days, Jerry volunteered with hikes, lock demonstrations, Special Olympics, and the Polar Express™. Now Jerry concentrates on working with law enforcement as one of three volunteers who check medical supplies

and fire extinguishers throughout the park.

Jerry advises new volunteers to always carry a first aid kit and plenty of water. "I can recall hiking when a visitor broke her ankle," he said. "We had the proper first aid supplies, but had to carry her a mile to paramedics. It was a good feeling knowing we could help."

In his free time, you can find Jerry hiking his favorite trail, the Buckeye, and keeping an eye out for his favorite animal, the coyote.

Milestone Awards

We are proud to recognize the following volunteers for reaching these milestones in their cumulative hours of service in 2012.

- **1,000 hours:** Dee Burnison, Debbie Daniels, John Duckworth, Hugh Freeman, Tom Fritsch, Guy Gadowski, Fred Glock, Carol Himelright, Don Hrdlicka, Mark Hrusovsky, David Kersten, Mike Kosmyrna, Rich Kroczyński, Betty Lee Krol, Pamela Lange, Rob Maro, Jerry McFadden, George Mitchell, Lauren Moon, Geoff Neeson, Pat Rice, Rita Sappenfield, Fred Schriever, Jack Shott, Ron Sokol, Gene Stepanik, and Joyce Tretow

- **2,000 hours:** Pete Allison, Bernie Charnas, Henry Fortlage, Rich Luke, Don Phillips, Alan Rice, Mary Anne Romito, Craig Schneider, Mary Jane Schremp, Karen Stadler, Laurie Toth, and Fred Wahl

- **3,000 hours:** Cindy Burgan, Ken Sabol, and Walt Strotz

- **4,000 hours:** Jerry Finnell

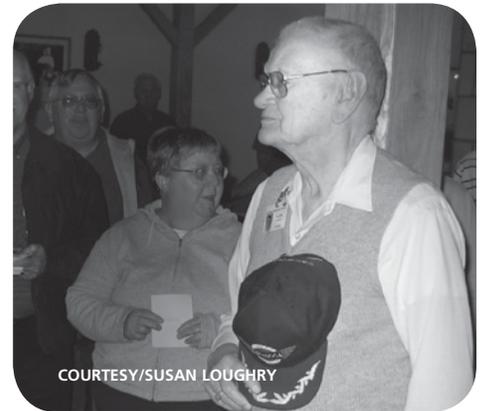
- **5,000 hours:** Dave Burgan, John Catalano, and Gene Wimmer



Remembering Our VIPs

We are saddened by the loss of three dedicated park volunteers. If you know of a CVNP volunteer who has passed away or "retired" after years of service, please contact the volunteer office at volunteer@forcvnp.org or 330-657-2296.

Bill Briggs, 87, passed away on February 25, 2013. From 1987 - 2005, he volunteered more than 3,600 hours at visitor centers and park programs. Bill was recognized as CVNP's Volunteer of the Year in 1992.



Claude Cooper.

Claude Cooper, 92, passed away on September 17, 2012. Claude contributed nearly 4,900 hours, mostly as a Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR) trainman. Susan Loughry, secretary of the CVSR Volunteer Association, commented: "He always had a smile, a joke, or a positive comment. He will be a memory that never fades and I personally am grateful to have known him."

Terry Young, 69, passed away on October 31, 2012. Terry volunteered for CVSR as a Polar Express™ trainman.

Volunteering for this event was very meaningful for him. We are grateful for the time he dedicated to bringing cheer to kids and their families.



Milestones & Transitions

Recognizing Volunteer Groups

We thank the following groups for their volunteer service in 2012:

Youth

America SCORES Cleveland
AmeriCorps - Northeast Ohio
Literacy Group
AmeriCorps Vista
Archbishop Hoban High School
BBYO - Ohio Northern Region
Boy Scout Troops
261, 319, 511, and 620
Bridges Learning Center
Case Western Reserve University
Coventry Middle School
Cub Scout Packs 124, 813, and 3105
Cuyahoga Community College
Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy
Eagle Scout Daniel Zalar - Troop 261
Eagle Scout David Williams
- Troop 261

Eagle Scout James Nemeth - Troop 208
Eagle Scout James Turner - Troop 511
Explorers Post 631
Girl Scout Troop 90559
Groundworks Cincinnati - Mill Creek
Hawken School
Help 2 Others - City of Lakewood
Hiram College Alumni
Hudson High School
Hyre Community Learning Center
Independence High School
Kent State University
Laurel School
National Inventors Hall of Fame
School®... Center for STEM Learning
Norwayne High School
Oakwood Middle School
Orange High School

Our Lady of the Elms School
Seton Catholic School
Slavic Village Development
St. Hilary School
St. Sebastian Catholic School
St. Vincent Catholic School
University of Akron
University School
Urban Community School
Venture Crew 2001
Western Reserve Academy



Explorer Post 631 paints historic benches.



Key Bank employees refinish a park fence.

Corporate/Adult

Akron Beacon Journal
Akzo Nobel Paints LLC
Bank of America
Bethany United Church of Christ
Buckeye Trail Association
Crooked River Trail Runners
Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council
DataScan Field Services
Deloitte
Eaton Corporation
Ernst & Young LLP
Fairmount Minerals
First Congregational Church
of Hudson
Friends of Nordonia Schools
GlaxoSmithKline
FedEx
Fox Sports Ohio
InterContinental Hotels
KeyBank
Leadership Akron
Medina Chapter of the Ohio
Horseman's Council
Nielsen
The North Face - Woodmere
Selman & Company
SSP Fittings Corporation
Starbucks
Summa Health System
Torchbearers Akron
U.S. Coast Guard - Cleveland Area
Chief Petty Officers Association



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley National Park
15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville, OH 44141



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Make a Difference!

Do you want to try something new? To find a list of current volunteer opportunities, visit www.nps.gov/cuva and click “Volunteer.” Support educational programs, visitor services, natural resource monitoring, habitat restoration, trail maintenance, and administration. There are drop-in, seasonal, and year-round opportunities. Many of our ongoing volunteer positions have limited recruitment periods, so check our website regularly or sign up to receive the quarterly *Volunteer Opportunities E-News* at www.conservancyforcvnp.org.

2013 Days of Service

Get your family and friends involved in park stewardship. Advance registration of at least three business days is required. Most events are family-friendly. For more information and to register, e-mail volunteer@forcvnp.org or call 330-657-2299.

Earth Day

Sunday, April 21
1 - 4 p.m.

RiverDay

Saturday, May 18
10 a.m. - noon
1 - 3 p.m.

National Trails Day

Saturday, June 1
9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 28
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Make a Difference Day

Saturday, October 26
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

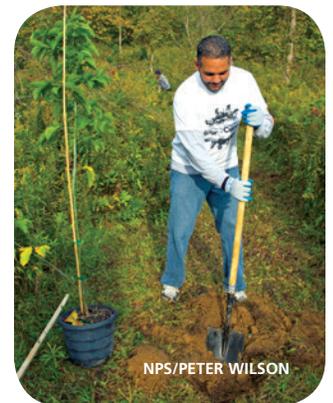


National Public Lands Day 2012.

Help Plant Native Habitat

When CVNP was established in 1974, most of its landscape was dominated by historic and modern human disturbance. Many areas had been mined for gravel, rock, and topsoil; vast bottomland forests had been cleared for farming.

With the help of thousands of volunteers, we have begun restoring the Cuyahoga Valley to a more natural environment. This is a long, complex process that requires many hands. Days of Service allow us to accomplish a lot in short periods of time. For example, on National Public Lands Day 2012, volunteers and staff planted more than 1,000 native trees on a 10-acre farmed site that earlier teams had cleared of an invasive plant infestation. The upstream location along the Cuyahoga River was significant. By restoring this property, we reduce the amount of invasive plants and seeds being washed deeper into the park.



Join the 2013 Days of Service. Together we can make an impact.

For a large-type version of this newsletter call 440-546-5991.