



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley  
National Park

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## Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

For Immediate Release – Wednesday, February 5, 2014

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### **Former Canal Visitor Center Becomes Canal Exploration Center**

*Save the Date! Grand Opening on May 17, 2014*

**Brecksville, Ohio** – The National Park Service is pleased to announce the Grand Opening of the Canal Exploration Center, a new attraction in Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP), from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2014. The facility, located in Valley View, was once the Canal Visitor Center, which has been closed since May 2013 for exhibit renovation. The \$1.3 million renovation was funded by the Federal Highway Administration, the National Park Service, and Eastern National.

Once used as a tavern, a general store, and a residence, this historic building now features in-depth, interactive exhibits for children and adults. The new name reflects new experiences for the site. “We are pleased to offer a very interactive and engaging destination to discover canal history,” said Paul Stoehr, Acting Superintendent, CVNP.

The Canal Exploration Center features a store selling goods reminiscent of the Canal Era. Interactive touchscreens allow visitors to navigate a canal boat through a lock, explore the nation’s canal system, or eavesdrop on Canal Chat conversations. Exhibits allow visitors to consider the impact of the canal system and debate the meaning of progress. Topics such as immigration, paying for public works projects, and who wins in a free market economy that are compelling today as they were 150 years ago are explored.

“The exhibits aim to provoke curiosity about the Canal Era and help visitors explore its relevance to their lives today. They tell the story of the Canal Era from many points of view. We found many captivating details about the Canal Era, as well as historic documents, artwork, and objects that help tell the stories,” said Jennie Vasarhelyi, Chief of Interpretation, Education & Visitor Services.

The center will be open Wednesdays through Sundays in May (starting Saturday, May 17), 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; daily, June through August, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday through Sundays in September and October, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays in November, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad will once again offer the Canal Explorer train excursion to the center. Please check [www.cvsr.com](http://www.cvsr.com) for the schedule.

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Interested in deepening your knowledge of canal history and sharing it with park visitors? Volunteer at the Canal Exploration Center as a Park Ambassador! Orientation is Thursday, February 20, 2014, at Boston Store Visitor Center, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. For more information, contact the volunteer office at [volunteer@forcvnp.org](mailto:volunteer@forcvnp.org), 330-657-2299, or visit [www.nps.gov/cuva/supportyourpark/volunteers/htm](http://www.nps.gov/cuva/supportyourpark/volunteers/htm).

CVNP 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. For more information visit [www.nps.gov/cuva](http://www.nps.gov/cuva) or call 330-657-2752.

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