

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Volunteer Program

Building a Community of Park Stewards



For Immediate Release, Friday, January 24, 2014

Mary Pat Doorley, CVNP, 440-546-5995, 440-343-7355 (cell), or mary_pat_doorley@nps.gov
Lisa Meranti, Conservancy for CVNP, 330-657-2364 or lmeranti@forcvnp.org

Volunteer Ambassadors Needed

Brecksville, Ohio – Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) is seeking park enthusiasts for a number of public education and interpretive positions for 2014 - 2015. Park Ambassador volunteers have direct and regular interaction with park visitors through formal and informal talks and presentations.

People interested in volunteering with one of the Park Ambassador volunteer groups are invited to an orientation at Happy Days Lodge, on Saturday, February 1, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. or Wednesday, February 5, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Attending either of these orientations is strongly recommended for new volunteers. Happy Days Lodge is located at 500 West Streetsboro Road in Peninsula 44264. Volunteer applications will be available at each orientation.

Park Ambassador Volunteer Opportunities Include:

Visitor Center Assistant: Assist rangers with operation of visitor centers—greet visitors, provide information/orientation, complete bookstore sales, and provide First Aid/CPR when needed.

Front Desk Assistant: Greet visitors, answer phones, and work on administrative and bookkeeping projects at the Conservancy Administrative Office

Lock 38 Presenter: Lead formal talks outdoors at Lock 38 and provide interpretive visitor services on the Towpath Trail.

Park Promoter: Promote CVNP and the Conservancy at on-site and off-site special events.

Paw Patrol: With your canine companion, set the example of proper park use—follow and share dog related rules and regulations and give general orientation and information to park visitors.

Roving Historian & Artisan: Provide Ohio & Erie Canal history and/ or demonstrate a 19th century trade or game to visitors along the Towpath Trail.

-more-

Call: (330) 657-2296 • **E-mail:** volunteer@forcvnp.org
Fax: (330) 657-2381 • **Web:** conservancyforcvnp.org
Mail: 1403 W. Hines Hill Road, Peninsula, OH 44264
Location: 1571 Boston Mills Road, Peninsula

CONSERVANCY
for CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK



**Cuyahoga Valley
National Park**

Speakers' Bureau: Present a scripted program about CVNP and its park partners to various community organizations.

Trail Mix Ambassador: Assist Conservancy retail staff in the operation of the Trail Mix stores—provide excellent customer service, greet visitors, provide information/ orientation, maintain a clean safe store environment, and provide First Aid/CPR when needed.

Wildlife Watcher: Help park visitors connect to nature by providing informal interpretation and education at a park hot spot.

Winter Sports Center Assistant: Work the information desk, assist visitors renting cross country skis and snow shoes, and aid the staff in winter recreation programs. Recruiting for winter of 2014/ 2015.

Volunteers must have the ability to start conversation and advocate for the park and park partners; have strong verbal and nonverbal communication skills and comfort with public speaking. Individuals must be able to stand for extended periods of time and have some availability on weekends and holidays and preferably commit two to eight hours per month. Interpretation, First Aid/CPR, and position-specific training is provided.

Contact the volunteer office at volunteer@forcvnp.org or 330-657-2299 for more information regarding these volunteer opportunities or to sign up for the Park Ambassador Orientation.

About the Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) Program CVNP's VIP program is co-managed by the National Park Service and the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Together, they accomplish park goals through mutually beneficial volunteer experiences and engage people in the park, building a community of park stewards. Currently, more than 6,300 VIPs donate more than 209,000 hours to provide the highest level of quality services to park visitors and to help protect America's heritage. To join these volunteers in making a difference at CVNP, contact the volunteer office at volunteer@forcvnp.org, 330-657-2299, or visit www.conservancyforcvnp.org. Many opportunities are available and training is provided.

About Cuyahoga Valley National Park CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information about the park, visit www.nps.gov/cuva or call 330-657-2752.

###