



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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Giving Back to Get Ahead

Volunteer Follows Conservation Ethic to Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Brecksville, Ohio - In today's economy, hands-on internships can make a difference in the lives of young professionals—and those same young people can make a difference through national service. The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is the only national organization that develops tomorrow's conservation leaders by providing high school and college students with conservation service opportunities in all 50 states, from urban communities to national parks and forests. More than 50,000 young people have served with the SCA since 1957 and as needs outpace budgets, the efforts of SCA members are more important than ever. This year, 4,200 SCA members are helping to protect and restore America's public lands.

SCA Intern Michael Goldman, 21, of Beachwood, Ohio, is working at Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) in an effort to spark interest among children about the importance of alternative transportation and conservation of America's natural beauty.

Goldman is a senior at Ohio University majoring in Environmental Geography and East Asian studies. He hopes that through this unique internship he will be able to, “teach children about the wonderful area that is right next door, and give them an understanding of why we need to save our country's wild areas for future generations.” Goldman does this through Native American storytelling on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad using props and environmental educational tools. He thinks it is important for young children to venture safely into the forest and use their imaginations, instead of playing video games and watching TV. Goldman first discovered CVNP when his middle school had a 2-day field trip to the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center, located in the park.

SCA members hone a “conservation ethic” through their service that benefits both the individual and the land. SCA experience leads a majority of members to become lifelong stewards and 60% of SCA interns go on to lead successful careers in the conservation field.

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The SCA is a nationwide conservation force of college and high school-aged members who serve America's parks, forests, refuges, seashores, and communities. For more than 50 years, the SCA's active, hands-on practice of conservation service has helped to develop a new generation of conservation leaders, inspire lifelong stewardship, and save the planet. The SCA is a non-profit organization headquartered in Charlestown, NH with regional offices in Washington D.C., Oakland, Pittsburgh, and Seattle. For more information about the SCA, visit www.thesca.org.

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 www.dayinthevalley.com/ or call (216) 524-1497 or (800) 445-9667.

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