

# Volunteers In Parks

## Job Description Sheet

Volunteers In Parks (VIP) can assist the National Park Service in many ways including visitor center operations, resource management projects, research work, historic and natural history programs, clerical assistance, historic restoration, park maintenance, and more.

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**Job Title: Roving Interpreter,  
Fort Smith National Historic Site**

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### Job Description:

The FSNHS offers a variety of interpretive programs to visitors, free of charge. In order to provide programs year-round, the FSNHS needs VIP Roving Interpreters. VIP Roving Interpreters will rove the park grounds giving informal interpretation, handing out maps, giving basic park information to visitors, and possibly helping lead groups during park events. NPS staff will provide training, VIP backpack, and help booster VIP skills in informal interpretation. Park interpretive themes and training will be provided to inform the VIP of what information should be shared. Opportunities are typically available seven days a week and will take place generally outdoors.

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### Skills Needed / Preferred:

- willingness and ability to talk with visitors about Fort Smith
- ability to lead visitors to stewardship through effective informal interpretation
- ability and flexibility to work in a variety of weather conditions

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### Training Provided:

NPS will provide orientation and interpretive training to assist VIPs in selecting appropriate subjects, techniques, and historical information that will be shared during each visitor interaction.

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### Goals / Outcomes of Job:

Provide a fun and educational experience for visitors, helping them understand the significance of Fort Smith's story, along with other park themes.

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### Benefits to Volunteers:

Ability to work with a variety of visitors; strengthen informal communication skills; thoroughly learn Fort Smith's story. Official VIP uniform provided.

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**Number of volunteers needed:** Numbers vary according to season

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### Minimum Commitment:

VIP should work with staff to refine informal interpretation skills.

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<b>Location of Position:</b>	<b>Supervisor:</b>	<b>VIP Coordinator:</b>	<b>Phone Number:</b>
Visitor Center & Park Grounds	Cody Faber	Cody Faber	479-783-3961

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### Firearms in the Park:

Under 43 C.F.R. § 20.511, Departmental volunteers in the course of their official duties are prohibited from possessing firearms on property under control of the Department. Because of the stated purpose of the sponsors of Section 512 to provide uniformity under applicable state law from bureau-to-bureau, the potential liability issues that could result, and the absence of any criminal penalties applicable to this regulation, this Departmental policy continues to apply to all NPS/FWS employees and volunteers during their official duties. Volunteers who are not on official duty may possess firearms on Departmental lands under the same conditions applicable to members of the general public, according to P.L. 111-24, Section 512. For this purpose, volunteers are considered the same as other employees when engaged in their official activities.