



Volunteer News

Volunteer Program Highlights: 220 Volunteers Provide Over 20,000 Hours to Site in 2005

Fort Vancouver volunteers do it again! As one of the larger volunteer programs within the National Park System, 220+ plus volunteers contributed an incredible 20,000 hours. Those hours varied from the archaeology field school students, interpretive guides who present to thousands of kids at the fort and McLoughlin House, volunteers working along the waterfront and in the garden to the volunteers that made many of our special events happen.

Each park is given the opportunity to highlight an aspect of their volunteer program. Fort Vancouver highlighted the 20 volunteers that came on board to update and upgrade the park's Period Clothing Program.

The Period Clothing Program includes clothing from the 1820's to the early 1900's, men, women, and children, as well as varying classes that are interpreted at Fort Vancouver and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve (Historic Reserve). Period clothing examples include *metis* (mix between European and Native heritage), laborers, Oregon Trail pioneers, and Civil War uniforms.

The program has also added many accessories to help make the characters come to life as they interpret Fort Vancouver and the Historic Reserve. The clothing and accessories are being individually photographed for an updated inventory catalogue. All

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day

We invite you to join us as we shake off the winter cobwebs and kick off the spring and summer season. The Fort Vancouver staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution.

Who: All Fort Vancouver & McLoughlin House Volunteers and their families are welcome.

Where: Pearson Air Museum

When: March 19, 1- 3pm

Cost: All volunteers with one guest are free. \$2 for any additional guests

Please RSVP at the Visitor Center, 360- 696- 7655 ext. 10

of this work is accomplished completely by volunteers, led by Eileen Trestain.

In this role, Eileen donates at least 20 hours each week leading the crew in improving the Period Clothing Program for Fort Vancouver and the Historic Reserve.

This crew of volunteers has donated close to 600 hours in just 3 short months, which averages to over 40 hours/week. The amount of time dedicated to the Period Clothing Program is equivalent to one full-time employee!

The accomplishments have included period clothing workshops which led to the

production of a period clothing collection for our newest addition to Fort Vancouver, the McLoughlin House.

The volunteers worked steadily for weeks to outfit the volunteers at the the McLoughlin House for its annual Candlelight Tour. Based on visitor response, the clothing highlighted the visitor experience at this signature event.

The Period Clothing Room has regular hours Monday & Thursday from 10- 3pm and Saturday by appointment only. If you have period clothing, please return it so it can be labeled and laundered. For more information about the program please call Tessa Langford at 696- 7659 ext. 15.

Happy New Year!

The Fort Vancouver Staff is hoping that 2006 has started off well for all of you. As the site's new Volunteer Program Manager, I wanted to start off the year by updating you on a number of things that have occurred in the park.

Serving as both the Special Events and Volunteer Program Manager, one of my major roles is to help implement the Long Range Interpretive Plan for Fort Vancouver and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, which was completed in 2004.

The plan focuses on a more Hands-on approach to history, allowing visitors to experience Fort Vancouver in a more interactive way. The Interpretive Team is developing a summer program schedule that incorporates this exciting way of reaching out to visitors. Working side by side with the Cultural Resources Team, programs will allow visitors to try their hand at the Fur Press or kneading dough for sea biscuits, to name two examples.

There will be the return of the successful Archaeology Field School for the summer as well as the debut of the Public History Field School coming this spring. This new program will provide undergraduate and graduate students first hand experience in the field of Public History and interpretation at the only National Park in the Portland Metropolitan area. These same students will have the opportunity to provide programs associated with our first event of the 2006 Special Event Season, the Annual Brigade Encampment. (See page 3 for more details about Special Events at Fort Vancouver).

There are so many exciting things happening at Fort Vancouver and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve. We look forward to having you be a part of this transformation in how we share Fort Vancouver's stories with visitors.

~Kimm Fox- Middleton

Behind the Scenes in the Volunteer Program

Who's Who in the Program...

Volunteer Program Manager serves as the manager of the entire volunteer program for the park. The VIP Manager (Kimm Fox- Middleton) provides support for volunteer supervisors. Support includes recruitment and National Park Service orientation for new volunteers, assistance in funding for volunteer supplies and materials for projects.

Volunteer Supervisor/On- Site

Contact serves as the primary contact for the volunteer. They are responsible for the volunteer's orientation and training at their work station and day-to-day supervision and evaluation of the volunteer. It is the role of the volunteer supervisor to work with their volunteers in implementing the goals of the park.

Volunteers have decided to volunteer here for a number of reasons, personal and/or professional fulfillment. What they provide are knowledge and skills that match the needs of the park in fulfilling the park's mission

What's What in the Program...

Volunteer Agreements: In effort to streamline and update volunteer records, all agreements will be terminated or subject to renewal annually by calendar year. This will assist in identifying our actual active volunteers, keep more accurate records, and be more responsive to specific calls coming from our Regional and Washington offices. Your park contact is responsible for making sure your records are updated every year. If you are volunteering in 2006 and have not signed a new volunteer agreement, please get in touch with your park contact as soon as possible.

Volunteer Hours: Another critical piece of information is your volunteer hours. The VIP hour sheets have been updated to include the entire fiscal year on one page. The hours are added up on a bi-annual basis, Oct- March and April- Sept. Please log in your hours onsite or at home if it is easier. Remember to turn it in to your park contact on the first of April and the first of October to be recorded.

Upcoming Volunteer Orientations and Training

New Volunteer Orientation- Kimm Fox- Middleton, Volunteer Program Manager

March 18 (Sat) 1pm***March 25 & 26 (Sat/Sun) 10am***March 28 (Tues) 7pm

Interpretive Training- by Kimm Fox- Middleton, Volunteer Program Manager
Preparing & Presenting an Effective Interpretive Talk

March 25 & 26 (Sat/Sun) 1pm**March 29 (Wed) 7pm
Kitchen & Bake House Demonstration→March 25 (Sat) 1pm

Black Powder Program- by Bill Deberry, Historic Programs Coordinator
Musket Firing→May 20

Canon Firing→May 6

Howitzer Firing→ March 4 & 25 (to be confirmed)

Archaeology Program- Heidi Pierson, Archaeology Lab Coordinator
Archaeology Lab →March 18 (Sat) 1pm

Registration is required; please call the Fort Vancouver and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Visitor Center at 360- 696- 7655 ext. 10.

Special Events at Fort Vancouver

Great new things are happening in the area of Special Events! This past year's Candlelight Tour was the springboard and model for many innovative things to come.

The 2005 Candlelight Tour centered around the relief effort of the USS *Shark*, tying all areas of the Fort to this one historic event. The conversations in the gentlemen's mess and the work in the Blacksmith and Carpenter Shops focused on what needed to be done to assist the crew of the *Shark*. A Resource Guide for Candlelight Tour 2005, titled "*Sympathy and Prompt Attentions*" was produced for all participants.

In 2006, the Candlelight Tour will expand its interpretation of the Hudson Bay Company's response to the 1846 wreck of the U.S.S. *Shark* to two days. There will be newer activities offering visitors a more intimate look into the lives of the people at Fort Vancouver including

Special Event Volunteers Needed

The summer event season is just around the corner and with it the need for those who have a love of sharing history with visitors as well as portraying a person of the past. For more information, please contact Kimm Fox- Middleton, Special Events Program Manager, at 360- 696- 7659 ext. 14.

dinner in the servants area of the Kitchen, a change from dinner in the gentlemen's and ladies mess. By better distributing activities throughout the buildings—such as the Counting House—Visitors will encounter a greater diversity of activities than ever before.

This is just a sample of our new direction for Fort Vancouver's special events, and efforts will continue to look at what we can do to continue the growth and

innovation within our program. In particular, we will be striving to identify the incremental hooks we can provide for the visitor so they will want to come year after year.

Operationally and administratively, we are working to professionalize the program by recruiting, orienting, and training participants for the park's Special Events Program.

Individuals who are interested in participating will need to attend these training sessions so they are kept informed of the program changes. Since agreements will be reviewed on an annual basis, this provides an opportunity for prospective volunteers to audition for various personas that are portrayed at special events. To add to the fun as well as the authenticity, all roles will be open for "casting", and we will be pairing volunteers with the historical character they most closely match.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is a premier historical and archaeological site that shares and preserves the history associated with the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver and the U.S. Army's Vancouver Barracks. A part of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, we value working with partners and the public to bring this special history to life.

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
Vancouver National Historic Reserve
612 East Reserve Street
Vancouver, WA 98661-3811

Phone
360 696-7655 ext. 10

Web Site Address
www.nps.gov/fova

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

Upcoming Events-2006

February 3 & 18

Lantern Tours

March 19
April 1&2
April 28

Volunteer Appreciate Day 1-3pm @ Pearson Air Museum
School of the Reenactor (Living History)
Children's Cultural Parade

June
June 2
June 17&18
June 14
July 4
July 22 & 23
July 23
July 23
August 19
August 25

Archaeology Field School/Kids Dig (June-July)
First Fridays @ the Fort (June-Sept)
Brigade Encampment (Living History)
Flag Day
Independence Day Fireworks
Soldier's Bivouac (Living History)
1860s Vintage Base Ball (Living History)
Movie Night on the Reserve
1860's Vintage Base Ball and Movie Night on the Reserve
Founders Day

September 15&16
October 14 &21
December 9

Candlelight Tour (Living History)
Tales of the Engages
Christmas at Fort Vancouver (Living History)

For additional information about these and other programs offered in the Vancouver National Historic Reserve and Fort Vancouver National Historic Site please visit our website at www.nps.gov/fova or call the Visitor Center at 360-696-7655 ext. 10 or 1-800-832-3599 ext. 10.



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The *Volunteer News* is published periodically by Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

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Internship and Volunteer Opportunities

Spring is just around the corner and the volunteer opportunities are blossoming at Fort Vancouver. Here are just a few opportunities.

Administration Volunteers

The park headquarters is in need of volunteers who want to work a few hours a week. Duties would include clipping newspaper articles and filing. Contact Elaine Huff, Administration Officer, at 360- 696- 7655 ext. 12

Interpretive Volunteers

Are you interested in sharing the history of Fort Vancouver with visitors and school groups. For more information contact Becky Railey, Fee & Operation Program Coordinator, at 360- 696- 7659 ext. 11.

Historic Programs Volunteers

Do you enjoy baking or cooking? Are you a gardener? If you like to do any of these things and enjoy history then the opportunities in Historic Programs may be a match for you. Volunteers may wear period clothing as they *show and tell* the stories of the workers at Fort Vancouver. Contact Bill DeBerry, Historic Programs Coordinator, at 360- 696- 7659 ext. 13.

Public History Internships

Are you a student who likes history? Are you looking for an opportunity to earn college credit? Then this exciting opportunity and interest in public history internship maybe the match for you. For more information, please contact Greg Shine, Chief Ranger & Historian, at 360- 696- 7655 ext. 14.