



Volunteers in Parks Program

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

List of Identified Needs

*Are you interested in a 12-week Volunteer Internship?
If so, please contact VIP Coordinator, Dana Soehn,
for a list of our 2011 Internship Opportunities.*

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Contact
At least one 10 hour day Apr-Sept	Parkwide NC & TN projects based on greatest need	Trails Forever Program: A partnership between Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Friends of the Smokies to complete trail rehabilitation projects. Required: Volunteers must commit to at least one 10 hour workday, be able to hike a minimum of 4 miles, use hand tools (shovels, fire rakes, Pulaski/axes, sledgehammers), and provide personal gear for the day (water, food, rain gear, appropriate clothing, boots). Duties: Volunteers perform a wide range of trail maintenance and trail rehabilitation and work alongside a Park Trail Crew including installing drainage structures (waterbars, check dams), rehabilitating trail surfaces, constructing turnpikes (raise trail segments), removing brush and vegetation, and building foot logs and bridges.	Christine Hoyer Trails Volunteer Coordinator 828-497-1949 christine_hoyer@nps.gov
~ 8 hours per month Mar-Oct	Parkwide; NC greatest need	Adopt-A-Campsite Program: Required: Must enjoy meeting people and be capable of hiking 5-15 miles/day. Annual orientation training required. Requires commitment to hike to adopted campsite min. of 8 times/year to clean out fire ring ashes, remove garbage, perform some site rehab, and educate hikers/campers in proper food storage. Desired: Knowledge of basic backcountry campsite maintenance procedures, food storage techniques, and knowledge of Leave No Trace ethics/skills.	Christine Hoyer Trails Volunteer Coordinator 828-497-1949 christine_hoyer@nps.gov
~ 8 hours per month Mar-Oct	Parkwide; NC greatest need	Adopt-A-Trail Program: Required: Must enjoy meeting people and capable of hiking 5-15 miles/day. Knowledge of basic trail maintenance procedures and the Park (orientation/training required). Job requires commitment to hike adopted trail a min. of 8 times/year to perform waterbar and drainage maintenance, trail clearing, and report on hazards/conditions, and provide hikers with information and promote Leave No Trace skills/ethics.	Christine Hoyer Trails Volunteer Coordinator 828-497-1949 christine_hoyer@nps.gov
1-2 hours, monthly Mar-Nov	Varied (TN)	Adopt-A-Vista Program: Required: Must be in good physical condition and capable of walking up/down uneven and sometimes steep terrain; requires commitment to visit vista min. 6 times/year. Desired: Remove litter and garbage from parking area and surrounding vegetation; perform brushing of new growth of small vegetation to keep view open; clear debris from parking area; and complete a work report for each visit.	Mark Schotters North District Roads Foreman 865-436-1282

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Contact
4-8 hours weekly year-round		Historic Structures Assistant: Help clean out and keep clean some of the historic structures throughout the Park. Volunteers are needed to sweep out and clean the structures as well as report any issues (broken boards, safety issues). No particular skills needed though basic carpentry would be a plus. This opportunity has the potential to grow from cleaning to completing basic carpentry projects on the historic structures with park staff.	Gary Zbel 865-436-1289 gary_zbel@nps.gov
1-2 hours, monthly year-round	Gatlinburg Spur (between Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge)	Adopt-A-Spur Program: A community partnership roadside litter patrol on an assigned section of the Spur. Required: Volunteers must be 18 years of age and older due to roadside safety concerns on this busy roadway. Ability to walk over uneven terrain and carry light loads.	Dana Soehn Volunteer Coordinator 865-436-1265 dana_soehn@nps.gov
1-2 hours, monthly year-round	Lakeview Drive (NC)	Adopt-Lakeview Drive Program: A community partnership roadside litter patrol on the Lakeview Drive north of Bryson City, NC. Required: Volunteers must be 18 years of age and older due to roadside safety concerns on this busy roadway. Ability to walk over uneven terrain and carry light loads.	Jim Bowers South District Roads Foreman 828-497-1938 john_bowers@nps.gov
32 hours per week May-Nov RV Site with full hookups provided	Cades Cove, TN	Litter Patrol & Maintenance Assistant: Required: Valid driver's license. Duties: Assist in litter patrol on Loop Road, cleaning historic buildings, painting, building repair, office assistance, custodial services in administration buildings, and raking/pruning/pick-up in campground.	Dale Brukiewa Cades Cove Roads Foreman 865-436-1276 dale_brukiewa@nps.gov
32 hours per week RV Site with full hookups provided	Cades Cove Elkmont Oconaluftee	Roadside Assistant Volunteers: Volunteers work in teams of 2 (generally married couples) to provide roadside assistance. At least one team member MUST have prior law enforcement experience which allows for better recognition of hazards that should be avoided and passed along to park rangers. Duties: Couples drive a courtesy patrol vehicle that is clearly identified as a 'non-law enforcement vehicle'. Volunteers assist in traffic control, provide minor roadside assistance (fluids, battery jump starts, unlock vehicles), perform campground patrols to look for food storage violations, and provide visitors with information and directions.	Jason Marsh Park Ranger jason_marshall@nps.gov Carmen Barnard Park Ranger carmen_barnard@nps.gov

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Contact
Saturdays 4-6 hours Bimonthly	Parkwide	<p><u>Water Quality Data Collection:</u> Volunteer will collect base flow water quality sampling from select park watersheds. Required: Any age individuals with ability to hike short distances (<1 mile). Participants less than 18 years old must have an adult legal guardian. Duties: This is an ongoing effort to collect water samples from select park streams in order to monitor stream water chemistry. This is one of the longest running monitoring efforts in GRSM, as well as the nation. Volunteers will be paired with volunteers from local Trout Unlimited Chapters who will train and lead the volunteers during their collections. Most collections are made on Saturdays and require roughly 4-6 hours.</p>	<p>Charlie Chmielewski Trout Unlimited Project Coordinator 865-986-1171 (h) 856-661-7325 (c) cchm@charter.net</p> <p>Matt Kulp Fisheries Biologist 865-436-1254</p>
Flexible	Parkwide	<p><u>Roving Angler Surveys:</u> Volunteer will survey anglers to assess fish catch and harvest rates. Current Project. Required: Participants must 18 years or older and have a valid state drivers license. Duties: This is an ongoing effort to supplement the angler surveys conducted by GRSM Law Enforcement Rangers and fisheries staff. The Park will provide a vehicle and the volunteer will drive and walk roads and trails along GRSM streams looking for anglers to interview. Anglers are asked a brief series of questions regarding where they are from, how long they have been fishing and what they have caught. Once completed, the volunteer may assist the fishery biologist with entry of angler creel survey data into Microsoft Access database.</p>	<p>Matt Kulp Fisheries Biologist 865-436-1254 matt_kulp@nps.gov</p>
Flexible	Parkwide	<p><u>Resource Monitor:</u> Required: Experience in identifying flora and/or fauna; ability to hike to backcountry areas, some of the off-trail; ability to write clear, concise and accurate records of observations. Duties: Monitoring one or more locations, species and/or habitats for current status and threatening environmental conditions.</p>	<p>Keith Langdon 865-436-1705 keith_langdon@nps.gov</p> <p>Susan Simpson 865-436-1200 x762 susan_simpson@nps.gov</p>
Flexible Apr-Oct	Parkwide	<p><u>Biological Field Assistant:</u> Required: Prefer experience in botany, entomology, ecology; ability to participate on team and work independently; serious interest and intent to learn substitute experience. Desired: Patience, dedication to notes of observations; driver's license; ability to hike short-moderate distances independently. Duties: Make observations and collections of insects visiting blooming rare plants to assist in determining what organisms are pollinating plants, esp. rare and endangered species. Loss of honeybees in the region raises these questions.</p>	<p>Keith Langdon 865-436-1705 keith_langdon@nps.gov</p> <p>Susan Simpson 865-436-1200 x762 susan_simpson@nps.gov</p>

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Contact
Flexible intermittent	Parkwide	<p>Assisting the ATBI (All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory): Required: Volunteer seeking to work in a fun, friendly, small work environment. Volunteer will contribute to the largest "science project" in the Smokies, gain new job skills/maintain existing job skills, meet Park personnel, local business owners, scientists from across the country, and make new friends. Duties: Volunteers work in 5 main areas: Fieldwork; Clerical; Education/Outreach; Special Events/Fundraising; and/or Computer/Technical. For more information on the opportunities available in each category; please contact us. Also see www.dlia.org/volunteer-job-descriptions.</p>	<p>Todd Witcher Discover Life in America</p> <p>Heather MacCulloch Volunteer Coordinator Discover Life In America (865) 430-4756 heather@dlia.org</p>
Flexible Apr - Sept	Parkwide, backcountry day hikes	<p>GPS Hiking & Plant I.D. Volunteers: Required: Driver's license and own transportation, ability to hike long distances (up to 15 miles) on park trails, especially those with extreme elevation changes. Ability to learn how to use GPS unit (provided) to take points on trail, and identify target plant species. Requires weekday training session, but volunteer hours are flexible. Volunteers would be required to report to Twin Creeks Science Center for training and to turn in data points regularly after hikes.</p>	<p>Susan Simpson Biological Technician 865-436-1200 x762 susan_simpson@nps.gov</p> <p>Keith Langdon Inventory & Monitoring Coordinator 865-436-1705 keith_langdon@nps.gov</p>
Flexible Mostly Oct-Apr Need commitment for several dozen pages.	From your home computer; Will need to work a few days at Twin Creeks	<p>Species Web Author: Producing web pages for all species of plant, animal and fungi, including Park-specific info (www.dlia.org/atbi/species/index.html). Required: Some biological scientific training at college level; computer (word processing) and library skills. Duties: Research a group of species and produce a short page, following set format, covering description, behavior, ecology, range and conservation status. Current pages being produced include long-horned beetles, butterflies and trees.</p>	<p>Paul Super Science Coordinator Purchase Knob 828-926-6251 paul_super@nps.gov</p>
Mon-Thu 8:00 – 5:00 Jan-Mar: Greenhouse Apr-May: Spring Planting	Twin Creeks Greenhouse (TN)	<p>Greenhouse Assistant (Native Plant Propagation): Required: No experience needed, but attention to detail and patience necessary. Duties: Sowing and transplanting seedlings for Park restoration and revegetation projects. Can work sitting or standing at potting bench in greenhouse. Optional: Plant seedlings in early Spring throughout the Park – primarily Cades Cove.</p>	<p>Kris Johnson Vegetation Specialist 865-436-1707 kristine_johnson@nps.gov</p>

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Contact
Mon-Thu 8:00 – 5:00 Mar-Oct: Scouting Jan-Dec: Spraying	Parkwide	Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Control: Required: Must be 18 years or older and in good physical condition (duties vary according to skill and fitness level). Duties: (1) Scout (on/off trail) in hemlock dominated areas; identify HWA infested areas and plot location utilizing GPS and topographic maps. (2) Assist HWA crew with spraying along roadsides, heavily-visited and developed areas with insecticidal soap using high-pressure spray equipment.	Jesse Webster Forestry Technician 865-436-1730 jesse_webster@nps.gov
Mon-Thurs 7:00 -5:30	Parkwide	Archaeological Volunteer: Required: No experience is necessary, but an interest in the history and prehistory of the Park is encouraged. Some work is performed outdoors, and some indoors. Outdoors work requires frequent bending, stooping, walking, standing, climbing and working in cramped positions. Basic computer skills are required for indoor work. This work can be repetitive in nature, but will expose the volunteer to many of the Park's cultural resources. An opportunity to participate in both outdoor and indoor activities will be provided in combination or by choice. Duties: Participate in completion of small and large archaeological survey projects. Selected volunteers will assist in the collection of archival documents, completion of shovel testing, mapping and delineation of site boundaries, and cataloging of collected artifacts.	Erik Kreusch Archaeologist 865-430-0339 Erik_S_Kreusch@nps.gov
Flexible Mon-Wed	Park HQ (TN)	Museum Collection Assistant: Required: Attention to detail, ability to handle objects with care, and patience is a must. Some computer experience or general typing skills and knowledge of regional cultural history helpful. Duties: Assist in cataloging archival, archeological, and historical objects (documents, videos, maps, archeological specimens). Work will consist mainly of writing catalog cards and data entry.	John McDade Museum Curator 865-436-1295 john_mcdade@nps.gov
1 st Thurs every month 9:00 – 3:00	Oak Ridge, TN (not in Park)	Museum Collection Assistant (off-site): Required: Attention to detail, ability to handle objects with care, and patience is a must. Knowledge of regional cultural history helpful. Duties: Assist in inventory and cataloging museum collection, including accurately describing museum objects and correct locations, light cleaning and conservation work on collection (training provided). Conditions in storage can be dusty or dirty. Due to location of storage facility, volunteer must be a U.S. citizen (not foreign national) and possess valid identification.	John McDade Museum Curator 865-436-1295 john_mcdade@nps.gov
Variable	Parkwide And in local communities	Outreach Programmer: Required: Ability to communicate with the public, learn about the Park's natural and cultural resources, and communicate orally and conduct a thematic program. Training involves one-year as special program interpreter; limited team space available. Desired: Past experience in presenting thematic interpretative style programs; personal knowledge of the natural and cultural history of the Park. Duties: Present assigned Outreach programs.	Brad Free North District Resource Education 865-436-1260 brad_free@nps.gov

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Contact
32 hours per week, one month minimum time requirement to qualify for lodging; other options negotiable	Mountain Farm Museum, Oconaluftee (NC)	Cultural Resources Interpreter: Required: Ability to communicate and work well with the public and learn Park and Southern Appalachian cultural history. Desired: Past experience in costumed interpretative demonstrations; extensive knowledge of historical farming practices in the So. Appalachians. Duties: Interpret cultural history to 2,000 visitors/day in period clothing or VIP uniform; ranges from opening/closing museum to general house-keeping and feeding livestock; demonstrations include domestic skills, farming blacksmithing, etc.	Lisa Free South District Resource Education 828-497-1906 lisa_free@nps.gov
4-8 hours per week	Sugarlands Visitor Center, Cades Cove Visitor Center, Oconaluftee Visitor Center	Information Assistant: Required: Ability to communicate and work with the public, learn the Park's cultural history, and read maps and give directions. Desired: Previous experience in working an information desk; personal know-ledge of natural and cultural history of the Park; knowledge of Park road and trail systems and flora and fauna; and ability to stand for most of 4-hour day and lift small packages. Duties: Provide information to visitors on one-to-one or group basis to facilitate a safe, informed visit.	Brad Free Sugarlands Visitor Center 865-436-1260 Mike Maslona Cades Cove Visitor Center 865-448-4104 Florie Takaki Oconaluftee Visitor Center 828-497-1260
seasonal and negotiable	Sugarlands Visitor Center (TN) Oconaluftee Visitor Center (NC)	Native Plants Gardener: Required: Knowledge of plant identification and gardening techniques with native and non-native plants. Desired: Experience with horticulture and/or landscaping, especially with native plants; ability to perform moderate physical labor. Duties: Assist vegetation management technicians with planting, weeding, and maintenance of native plant garden; may also assist with other landscaping and vegetation projects as interested.	Brad Free North District 865-436-1260 Florie Takaki South District 828-497-1260
4 - 8 hour shifts October	Cades Cove	Bicycle Patrol: Required: Ability to meet and deal with the public in a positive, friendly and helpful manner. Must be physically fit with the ability to ride a bicycle for extended periods of time. Personally owned bicycle and helmet are required. Desired: EMS (First Aid/CPR) training, Interest in Law Enforcement or Wildlife Management Duties: Provide general information to park visitors concerning bicycle safety, park regulations, wildlife viewing guidelines, and natural and cultural resources. Regularly inform Park Rangers of visitor issues through radio communication. Provide assistance to Park Ranger staff during emergency situations. Perform routine traffic management duties. Manage public use relating to wildlife viewing, bike closure, special events and other special needs.	Jamie Sanders Cades Cove Park Ranger 865- 448-4106



Volunteers in Parks Program

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Group Projects

01/2011

*As with all outdoor activities, these types of projects may be weather dependent.

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Lodging	Contact
8-hour minimum 40 hours/person minimum to qualify for group campsite	Widely scattered locations; mostly in NC; some areas require hiking in	Exotic Vegetation Control: Required: No special skills are required. We prefer that volunteers be 12 years or older. Some projects involve hand pulling, i.e. no tools, but require the ability to discern target plants. Duties: Work consists of manually removing various species of exotic vegetation, e. g. privet, multiflora rose, etc. and is labor intensive and uses simple hand tools such as pruners, machetes, or safety axes. Cut vegetation is manually hauled to a central location for burning, composting or removal by truck.	A group campsite can be provided; no other lodging is available	Kris Johnson Vegetation Specialist 865-436-1707 kristine_johnson@nps.gov
8-hour minimum	Field locations, Parkwide	Seed Collection: Required: No required skills. Desired: Knowledge of plant and tree identification. Duties: Collect a variety of native plant and tree seeds. Seeds will be processed by the SCS, germinated, and returned to the Park as seedlings for re-vegetation projects. Adult supervision required -- may require use of small step ladders. Timing is critical -- this work must be performed in the 1-3 weeks when seeds are present. Time period varies with plant species.	none	Kris Johnson Vegetation Specialist 865-436-1707 kristine_johnson@nps.gov
1-2 hours, monthly year-round	Gatlinburg Spur (between Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge)	Adopt-A-Spur Program: A community partnership roadside litter patrol on an assigned section of the Spur, ranging from .3 to 1 mile in length. Required: Volunteers must be 18 years of age or accompanied by 1 adult per 6 students due to roadside safety concerns on this busy roadway. Ability to walk over uneven terrain and carry light loads.	none	Dana Soehn Volunteer Coordinator 865-436-1265 dana_soehn@nps.gov

8-hour minimum	Cades Cove	Barbwire Fence Removal: Volunteers would use hand tools to remove unneeded barbwire fencing that detracts from the historical scene, impedes the natural flow of wildlife through the valley, and interferes with personnel and equipment transport/operations during prescribed burning operations. Required: Volunteers must wear long pants, long sleeves, sun protection, and be able to handle small rolls of barbwire. Leather gloves will be provided.	none	Dana Soehn Volunteer Coordinator 865-436-1265 dana_soehn@nps.gov
8-hour minimum		Trail Rehabilitation: The park has over 800 miles of trails offering hikers a wide range of scenery including spectacular mountain vistas, rushing streams and waterfalls, historic structures, and quiet groves of old-growth forest. By helping with our trails, you have the chance to work on a team dedicated to improving trail drainage, installing water bars, constructing stream crossings, and rebuilding trail slopes. Required: Volunteers must commit to at least one 10 hour workday, be able to hike a minimum of 4 miles, use hand tools (shovels, fire rakes, Pulaski/axes, sledgehammers), and provide personal gear for the day (water, food, rain gear, appropriate clothing, boots). Duties: Volunteers perform a wide range of trail maintenance and trail rehabilitation and work alongside a Park Trail Crew including installing drainage structures (waterbars, check dams), rehabilitating trail surfaces, constructing turnpikes (raise trail segments), removing brush and vegetation, and building foot logs and bridges.	A group campsite can be provided; no other lodging is available	Christine Hoyer Trails Volunteer Coordinator 828-497-1949 christine_hoyer@nps.gov
2-hour minimum	Parkwide	Roadside, Overlook & Picnic Area Litter Removal: Required: No skills required. Desired: Ability to walk over uneven terrain (some steep) and carry light loads. Work can be accomplished by young volunteers, but age 8 years and older preferred due to roadside safety concerns.	none	Mark Schotters North District Roads Foreman 865-436-1282 Jim Bowers South District Roads Foreman 828-497-1938
6-8 hours, any time of year, but best May through October.	Purchase Knob (NC)	Removal of Dead Christmas Trees: Required: Ability to work independently after training; ability to travel safely off-trail over steep and uneven ground; ability and willingness to lift and/or push heavy objects; ability to use pruning loppers safely. Duties: An old Christmas tree plantation has been dying because of insects and fire; some trees ~12' tall have rotted and can be pushed over; fallen trees can be carried to woods or to road-side for chipping; chainsaws are not an option. Note: may have trained volunteer leaders who can help a group.	Tent pad Flush toilet available, May through October	Paul Super Science Coordinator Purchase Knob 828-926-6251 paul_super@nps.gov

NOTE: Participation from groups for one-time service projects requires personal commitment from leaders and participants. It is important to: (1) select a project suitable to your group's age, skills and abilities; (2) be on time; and (3) be properly prepared for the work to be done (appropriate clothing, food and water, and personal needs). VIP group projects help meet needs due to understaffing and budget constraints. Limited availability of Park staff for project prep/supervision requires a firm commitment to project date.