

Volunteers-in-Parks

Great Smoky Mountains National Park



Where volunteers serve ...

Volunteers are a valuable addition to the staff and perform valuable services in all areas of the park. Our volunteers serve the park in many ways, from backcountry trail/campsite programs to campground hosts, visitor center information assistants, backcountry information assistants, cultural demonstrators, Student Conservation Association Interns, special event assistants, elk bugle corps, roadside visitor assistants, and resource management assistants. In addition, volunteer groups from civic organizations, Scouts, schools and universities perform service projects, spring trail clearing assistance, roadside/riverbank litter patrols, and trail or campground maintenance. The park continues to enjoy many long-term volunteer partnerships.

Volunteers-in-Park (VIP) represent the National Park Service, work in a unique setting, help to preserve the natural and cultural legacy of the Smokies, and help visitors discover the resources, meanings, and values found throughout the park.

Volunteers-in-Park join the NPS family ...

In the Smokies, Volunteers are only accepted if we have an identified park need and space for the Volunteer to be placed with a NPS Supervisor. Our Volunteers work closely with Park Staff and are expected to follow ethical guidelines, wear a VIP uniform, and are covered under the same accident protection as NPS employees.

Volunteer-in-Park success story ...

- In Fiscal Year 2010, 3,713 total Volunteers-in-Park donated 135,436 hours of service in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- We had the 1st largest National Park Service Volunteer Program in the Southeast Region and the 5th largest Volunteer Program across the nation in 2010.
- Program activity has increased 161% in the last sixteen years.
- Value of the VIP program was \$2,823,861 -equal to 65 permanent staff- in FY2010.

2010 Volunteer Program Summary			
	# of Hours		# of Hours
Resource Education (Visitor Center)	28,556	Campground Hosts	19,604
Resource Management & Science	23,061	Administration	1,659
Discover Life in America	1,175	Litter Patrol	4,766
Adopt-a-Trail & Adopt-a-Campsite, Trail Maintenance, & Trails Forever Projects	16,482	Boy Scouts	
		Trail Sign Project	4,454
Appalachian Trail Maintenance	7,995	Elk Bugle Corp	7,318