



Volunteer of the Month

Phil Officer

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park would like to honor Living History Volunteer Phil Officer as the Park's December Volunteer of the Month. Since beginning his internship, Phil has provided park visitors with over 1,120 hours of front line service. Phil's passion for the American Civil War and US History has been evident in the multitude of programs and events he has presented from the War of 1812 to the Civil War.

Phil graduated in 2008 from Keene State College in his native state of New Hampshire, with a Bachelor's of Arts in Theater with an emphasis in Acting and Directing. After graduation, he worked for a professional theater company in Vermont called Northern Stage, as a technical intern. After attending a seminar at Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord, MA, Phil used living history as a technique to bring American history to life in the classroom. It was then that the world of interpretation became apparent to Phil. Interpretation afforded Phil the opportunity to combine his two greatest passions; connecting visitors to American History through the art of presentation.

Early spring, Phil was selected for a summer internship as a front line living history intern interpreting the park's six themes. Phil shared the importance and significance of Harpers Ferry with visitors providing guided tours and demonstrations. Phil demonstrated a keen ability to adapt his programs and interpretation to fit different historical time periods and audiences.

At the end of the summer season, Phil elected to stay on and continue to volunteer his services.. Throughout the fall, Phil assisted in developing new events and exhibits. He has been instrumental in helping his co-workers stage volunteer driven fall events. Phil has helped maintain the branch's "VIP" statistics of 13,000 volunteer hours, track budgeted and purchased property, conducted 20 volunteer event correspondence, mailings to 600 volunteers, updated volunteer database mailing lists, registered volunteers, provided logistical support to special military encampments, demonstrated an appropriate and tasteful sense of 19th century material culture streetscape & political decorations. Continually moving forward on Living History staffing & volunteer management duties, Phil always stops to field visitor questions that come his way.

Phil is currently enrolled in a certificate program for Resource Interpretation at Stephen F. Austin University, and hopes to one day pursue a career in interpretation with the National Park Service.



Phil photographed here in War of 1812 period clothng with a couple interested recruits.

NPS Photo



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering at Harpers Ferry Park, please contact the park's volunteer coordinator at the address or phone number listed below. Volunteer today and give back!

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
Volunteer Coordinator
P.O. Box 65
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Phone
304.535.5017

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