

Become an Education Volunteer



What does an Education Volunteer do at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites?

The education programs offered at ROVA are multi-disciplinary, interactive, hands-on, and encourage critical thinking skills. These programs are both ranger and volunteer led. Program themes are based on cultural, historical, agricultural, environmental, and conservation education.

After training the volunteer will present on and off-site interpretive/educational programs for students of various ages in accordance with established program themes and objectives. Program presentations are based on specific program guidelines, interpretive and educational methods, educational theory, age appropriate techniques, and other accepted National Park Service methods. All programs conform to park, NPS, and ROVA standards and guidelines.

Volunteers may assist with other duties such as mailings, assembling curriculum materials, and program maintenance. In emergency situations contacts appropriate personnel and administers basic first aid according to qualifications, prior to the arrival of Emergency Medical Services.

Volunteers work with diverse groups and individuals, including student groups, teachers, colleagues, park partners and cooperators. Effective working relations require sound communication skills, an ability to treat others with respect, tolerance for diverse points of view, and a willingness to assess and adjust one's own interpersonal skills to facilitate effective outcomes.



Meet Our Education Volunteers



| Paul Adams | Cathy Cigna | Gayle Turosko |
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|  A photograph of Paul Adams, a man wearing a dark jacket, a cap, and sunglasses, standing outdoors. |  A photograph of Cathy Cigna, a woman wearing a green polo shirt and a cap, holding a clipboard and smiling. |  A photograph of Gayle Turosko, a woman wearing a red jacket and a scarf, smiling. |

Paul's comments

Why I volunteer for the National Park Service: I like the idea of assisting park rangers. I enjoyed my appointment as a "Teacher/Ranger/Teacher" several years ago and that experience prompted me to Volunteer in the education program. I feel that as a citizen I have a role to play and that I am giving back to the community. As a retired teacher I realize the importance of what happened here in Hyde Park and the influence these happenings had on the community and the Nation. Teaching about nature is in my blood (I am a retired science teacher). I love the inquisitiveness of understanding what you see in nature, and how history and science intertwine in the FDR story. My favorite programs here at the park are the Empire Forester and Escape the Mob. They are very well put together. When I present these programs I feel like I fit in. I recommend volunteering in the education program as it gives you a feeling of importance,. You can share your talents, and it is rewarding. You are able to interact with the public, students, teachers, park staff, and it is fun, and social, as well as a learning experience. My neighbors seem to ask me more questions about the park too.

Cathy's comments

As to why I volunteer: I wanted an opportunity to give back to the parks system since I've had such wonderful experiences at every one I've visited. I chose to be an education volunteer because I love working with students and thought I could put my experience as a teacher to work for the benefit of the Roosevelt historic sites. To recommend the experience to a potential volunteer: This is an opportunity to give to others by helping them experience ROVA in a different way. It is also an opportunity to grow as an individual. There are learning experiences at every turn and interesting people to meet and interact with.

Gayle's comments

Why I like to volunteer: I love to take kids into the canopy of nature and show them the wonder of the woods. In an age of technology and connection to everything electronic, I love to create awareness of nature's beauty, smell the earth, connect with all of nature's bounty. I want to create a memory that they will take on into their adult years and let them relax, enjoy and experience the freedom and imagination that being in nature can give. I recommend the experience: I encourage anyone with a little time, to volunteer and learn these great programs to ensure that these programs continue to reach out to all ages. These programs combine history and nature and they create learning opportunities for both the volunteer and the children in the school classes

There are other ways to Volunteer for the Education Program at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS

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| <p>Elizabeth Sheffer Curriculum Writer</p> | <p>Barbara Dario Artist</p> | <p>National American Sewing Guild</p> |
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Elizabeth's Comments

Eleanor Roosevelt has always been a woman of valor to me. I remember talking about her with my father when I was just a little girl. When I began working on social justice issues at my present job, I found that so much of what I was working on had a direct link to Eleanor. When the opportunity arose to assist in editing the lessons for "Eleanor's Traveling Suitcase", I volunteered. Students in New York State, the nation, and the world, need to study her advocacy and her work in human rights and social justice. This is why I volunteer.

Barbara Dario

Barbara is a local artist who volunteered her time and talent painting the wall murals, table, and stools for the discovery center, and the illustrations for the NPS children's book "Franklin's Fine Feathered Friends."

National American Sewing Guild

The Ladies of the NASG volunteered their skills in making 19th century costumes for education programs: Mary Dubois, Elizabeth Adams, Linda Machonis, Lorraine Dono, Pamela Scofield, Mary Ann Mikulsky-Chittester, Marilyn Martin, Andrea Diamond, Jeannie Irvine, Jane Parente, Phyllis Whitman, Gwen Brock, Carmen Tortoriello, Cynthia Wisdo, Andrea Hunt, Gayle Thew, Judy Longacre, and Faith Park.

If you have a talent where we have a need, there could be a perfect match.

We welcome you to join us! Volunteer Application:

[click here](#)

150 hours of service awards you a free pass to every park in the U.S. for one year!