

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, colleges, 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'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



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.

Kathy's Comments

Kathy holds FDR in high esteem as the underdog who exceeded in meeting his challenges of polio, and the challenge of his Presidency during the Great Depression, and WWII. Influenced by his Presidency she has become an avid reader and collector of Roosevelt memorabilia. Kathy teaches eighth grade at Shaker Junior High School in Latham, New York. She has been teaching American History for over 12 years, focusing much of her time outside of the classroom with students on projects related to the Roosevelt's. She co-advises the History Club and the Podcasting Club at the Junior High School. Over the past year Kathy and her students have volunteered their time working collaboratively with the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS, on writing, editing, and recording student-based podcasts for the Hyde Park Trail system. The podcasts are currently displayed and downloadable on the park Website at <http://www.nps.gov/hofr/forteachers/student-trail-podcasts.htm>, and on Eleanor Roosevelt NHS Website at <http://www.nps.gov/elro/forteachers/index.htm>

When asked why she volunteers for NPS she replied: "I love volunteering for the National Park Service because I am able to take one of my favorite areas of study and bring students along in the journey of learning and understanding about the remarkable lives of the Roosevelt's. The staff at NPS are amazing and wonderful to collaborate with. I highly recommend other educators join in giving back by volunteering their time and expertise so the community and students can benefit from this experience."

Judi's Comments

Judith Stott is a library-media specialist at Shaker Junior High School in Latham, New York, currently in her twenty-third year. While she enjoys the variety of class research, she particularly likes Social Studies and helping students become involved in the stories and people of our history. Ms. Stott is a co-advisor for the Morning Announcement Club, Drama Club and History Club. Last year she was pleased to begin the Podcasting Club with a fellow teacher. The club devoted itself to writing and recording informational audio to accompany student hikers on the ROVA park trails. While the stereotype of a librarian reading all the time is partially true, Judi also enjoys video/audio recording and editing, and has a soft spot for Eleanor Roosevelt. She has enjoyed working with the National Park Service. Judi claims that volunteering for the NPS has given her new knowledge and insight about the Roosevelt's and the Hyde Park environment and it has been invaluable for sharing with teachers and students.

Barbara Dario	National American Sewing Guild	?
		

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!
Fill out a Volunteer Application**



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