



Volunteer at Harry S Truman National Historic Site



Harry S Truman Home, Independence, Missouri

In Brief

Harry S Truman National Historic Site opened to the public on May 15, 1984. Today, the National Park Service preserves and interprets the home of President Truman. Completed in 1885 by Mrs. Truman's grandparents, the fourteen room Victorian house provided a home to four generations of the family. Visitors experience the home as it was during the time Harry S Truman and his wife, Bess Wallace Truman, lived there. Upon her death in 1982, Mrs. Truman bequeathed the home to the people of the United States, and it is now a unit within the National Park System.

Our Mission

To promote, create and maintain long-term stewardship and support for the park resources by:

- *Fortifying park programs through the use of volunteers in a manner which complements basic park resources to better accomplish the park mission.*
- *Providing an enriching and diverse work experience for participating volunteers.*

The National Park Service Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) Program was authorized (by Public Law (91-357) in 1970.

The primary purpose of the VIP program is to provide a vehicle through which the National Park Service can accept and utilize voluntary help and services from the public. The major objective of the program is to utilize this voluntary help in such a way that is mutually beneficial to the National Park Service and the volunteer. Volunteers are accepted from the public without regard to race, creed, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

About our Volunteers

Volunteering is an American tradition that over the years has made immeasurable contributions to communities, organizations and individuals throughout the country. A recent poll found that over one-third of the American public has been or are now volunteers. Over half of those presently involved in volunteer work are also employed in full or part-time jobs. Today's volunteers are active, dynamic, creative individuals of all ages who possess the skills, desire, patience and time to accomplish a wide variety of tasks.

Park volunteers come from every state and around the world to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

National Park Service volunteers are, without a doubt, Very Important People! Each year more than 163,000 volunteers donate over 5.4 million hours of service to the National Park Service.

Compensation

Volunteering provides valuable experience in a professional work environment located in a national park. All positions listed require the wearing of a National Park Service volunteer uniform. For more information, please contact the volunteer coordinator at 816-461-5550 or by e-mail at hstr_volunteer@nps.gov. Apply directly online by going to www.nps.gov/hstr and click on the "support your park" link. A complete listing of volunteer positions is on our website at the following address: <http://www.nps.gov/hstr/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm>

Volunteer Positions

Job Title: Interpretation

Volunteers work side by side with Park Rangers in order to provide quality interpretive services. As a volunteer you will have the opportunity to serve as an interpretive tour guide and independently present a variety of interpretive programs to park visitors, including leading groups on tours of the Truman home. Persons in this position may also be required to work in the park Visitor Center handling funds, providing tickets, and offering general information.

Requirements:

- Minimum of one 8 hour day per week; one weekend day per month
- Must be available for formal training
- Must wear National Park Service uniform
- All volunteers are subject to background checks.
- Work may require long periods of standing and climbing stairs
- Work will be conducted both inside, outside, and during inclement weather
- Must enjoy working with the public

Job Title: Cultural Resources

The Cultural Resources division offers fascinating opportunities to work with museum staff. A background appropriate to the field is helpful, but not required, however interest, enthusiasm, and commitment are important. Many of our behind-the-scenes positions may entail clerical work, data entry, artifact handling, research, or some combination there of.

Requirements:

- Must establish a regular weekly schedule
- Minimum of 3 hours per week
- Minimum commitment of six months due to depth of training necessary to complete projects available
- Must wear National Park Service uniform

Job Title: Cultural Landscape Assistant

Volunteers will have a unique opportunity to work on the grounds of the Truman Home and Truman Farm Home, using historically approved methods of maintaining the cultural landscape of the home of our 33rd President.

Requirements:

- Available for a four hour training workshop
- Work will be conducted outdoors with prolonged periods of standing, occasional work conducted during adverse weather conditions
- Work involves lifting, kneeling, bending, getting dirty, and using a variety of tools
- Volunteer will not be permitted to use pesticides or other chemicals
- Equipment will be provided
- Must wear National Park Service uniform

Job Title: Visitor Center Volunteer

Volunteer staffs the main Harry S Truman National Historic Site Visitor Center and maintains day-to-day operations. Duties include: handling funds, selling tickets, and providing general information.

Requirements:

- Minimum of one 8 hour day per week
- Knowledge of park resources and surrounding community
- Must be available for formal training
- Able to use a cash register
- Must wear National Park Service Uniform
- Work will be conducted indoors with prolonged period of standing
- Work will involve some light lifting and bending
- Must enjoy working with the public
- Capable of working with minimal supervision