

Indiana Dunes National Park Volunteer Service Description



Drop-In Volunteering: Trash Trekkers

Location: Dorothy R. Buell Memorial Visitor Center
1215 North State Road 49
Porter, IN 46304
(219) 395-1882

Position Overview

Drop-in volunteering provides hassle-free opportunities at Indiana Dunes. With no previous experience needed, drop-ins are perfect for those with just a few hours of free time or those visiting the dunes for the weekend.

Individuals may volunteer through Trash Trekkers, a drop-in litter cleanup program. Volunteers can simply check in at the Visitor Center to receive trash bags, then choose from one of our many beaches or hiking trails to collect trash. Visitors are awarded with a free, reusable water bottle for filling up their bags.

Minimum Commitment

A few hours of free time on a day of your choosing.

Goal / Outcome of Job:

To assist park staff to help care for our National Park.

Description of Duties

- Litter Cleanup

Knowledge/ Skills Desired

- Desire an ability to work outdoors.
- Ability to work in diverse terrain and footing.
- Ability to handle some physical activity.

Difficulty Level

Average impact.

Working Conditions: Volunteer work involves light manual labor, such as carrying trash bags over uneven terrain, sand, wet soils, and exposure to biting insects and poisonous plants.

Training / Preparation Required:

No training provided. The following are safety hazards volunteers may encounter while volunteering for the park cleanup program:

- Driving: Volunteers will be driving to designated spots to clean up. Follow good driving practices and park only in designated parking areas.
- Be aware of surroundings and potential slipping, tripping, and falling hazards.
- Wear leather / nitrile gloves.
- Bend at the knees when lifting. Use teamwork when carrying heavy items.
- Do not overfill trash bags.
- Wear a high visibility safety vest for all work along any roadway or parking areas.
- Face oncoming traffic when working along roadways / parking areas.
- Look both ways before crossing the road. Use crosswalk where available.
- Stay on the trail and off the dunes. Watch out for poison ivy and ticks. Perform tick checks and use insect repellent as needed.
- Volunteers should find safety in cases of extreme weather.
- Trash: Volunteers can and should avoid picking up items that are hazardous, such as sharp objects and needles.
- Other safety concerns: Call 911 or 1-800-PARKTIP (1-800-727-5847) in case of an emergency. Volunteers should stop picking up trash in any situation where they feel their safety is in danger.

Uniform

To work in the field, we recommend that volunteers bring the following clothing and supplies:

- Appropriate footwear (no sandals or open-toed shoes allowed). Boots/shoes that provide ankle support.
- Long pants and long-sleeved shirt that you can get dirty (light colored and tightly woven clothing may reduce exposure to insects).
- Raincoat and/or warm clothing as appropriate. Wear layers for changing weather.
- Hat
- Reusable water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Leather work gloves, impermeable latex/nitrile gloves, eye protection (safety glasses) (park will provide for use on project if required)