

Indiana Dunes National Park Volunteer Service Description



Special Events and National Service Days

Position Overview

Special Events and National Service Day volunteers support special events and programs across a variety of park sites. Members can work multiple events per year to gain experience and work with National Park Service (NPS) staff to plan and execute high quality events for the public.

Sample of Events

- **Maple Sugar Festival-March**

Come volunteer and enjoy the spring at Indiana Dunes National Park's annual Maple Sugar Time festival. Help with ranger-led tours of the sugaring operation at historic Chellberg Farm. Help educate visitors on how American Indians first boiled maple sap into sugar and how early settlers used large iron kettles to make syrup. Assist at the sugar shack where sap is boiled down the way the Chellberg family did it back in the 1930s. Drill tap holes, lug sap buckets using an old-fashioned yoke, or help in farmhouse cooking recipes featuring maple syrup.

- **Earth Day Park Cleanup-April
(National Service Day)**

Indiana Dunes Trash Trekkers Earth Day Cleanup is sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes, Indiana Dunes Tourism, and the Park. Family, friends, neighbors, and park employees join forces during National Volunteer Week to collect a winter's worth of trash and debris from roadsides, beaches, the Little Calumet River, and trails of Indiana Dunes country to help beautify the parks and make the region a cleaner place to live. Participating in the cleanup is a great way to take pride in your community, celebrate the spring, and enjoy your National Park

- **Logs to Lustrons-May**

Volunteer and be part of a very special tour of architecturally significant homes in and around the Indiana Dunes National Park. The tours are sponsored by Indiana Landmarks and the National Park Service. Included on the tour are two Swedish historical homes: the Gust Lindstrom house and the restored Oscar/Irene Nelson site; two prefabricated enameled steel Lustron houses; the House of Tomorrow home from the 1933-34 Chicago World's Fair; and several architect-designed mid-century houses.

- **Century of Progress Tours-September**

Help National Park Service rangers give tours of five historic homes from the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. Get a close-up look at these amazing homes, which are not open to the public except for these tours. Help guide visitors and offer support to rangers while learning about the history of these special places.

- **9/11 America's Race-September 11 (National Service Day)**

Indiana Dunes National Park and Leon's Heroes present "America's Race" annually on September 11 at Indiana Dunes National Park's West Beach. This event is part of a national recognition of the 9/11 attacks and honors our military veterans and first responders. Volunteers help with setup and operation of the event. You can also volunteer to come out and simply cheer on our national heroes.

Minimum Commitment

One event

Goal / Outcome of Job:

To assist park staff in executing high quality events for the public

Description of Duties

Event preparation (occurs prior to the event, not day-of):

Event Set-up:

- Set up event gear (chairs, tables, signage, trash cans, tents, etc.)
- Set up activities or stations

Working the Event (sample list):

- Staff event welcome stations
- Maintenance Support: assist with event maintenance, clean up trash, etc.
- Parking Support: direct cars, maintain organization
- Lead or assist programs
- Assist Park Rangers with activities
- Take event photos

Post Event

- Clean up trash
- Take down and put gear away
- Organize materials

Knowledge/ Skills Desired

- Assistant should have general knowledge and understanding of the National Park Service mission and goals.
- Easily approachable, friendly, honest, fair, and willing to solve problems as they arise.
- A willingness to help others in a courteous and professional manner is essential since they are representing not just Indiana Dunes National Park, but the entire National Park Service.

Difficulty

Low to Average. Requires a combination of sitting, standing for a longer period.

Working Conditions:

Working outside. Volunteer should be prepared for the weather conditions.

Training / Preparation Required:

We provide all training and leadership the days of.

Uniform

To work in the field, we recommend the 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 (light colored and tightly woven clothing may reduce exposure to insects)
- Raincoat and/or warm clothing as appropriate
- Hat
- 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)