



The Lowell Volunteer Partner

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Lowell National Historical Park

Outstanding Volunteer Efforts for 2009 Lowell Folk Festival

The temperature finally rose, tents went up, food vendors prepared their offerings, stages were set, an army of volunteers was in place, the music began, the summer rains held off, and the visitors came to enjoy the food, music, and crafts of the 2009 Lowell Folk Festival.[®] Thus, another successful Lowell Folk Festival[®] was underway. With close to 1300 Lowell Folk Festival[®] volunteers donating nearly 25,000 hours collecting donations, staffing sales and information booths, serving ethnic foods, working stages



and crowds, recycling trash, guiding and transporting artists throughout the festival, and literally setting up and taking down tables, chairs, and moving tents, the event went off remarkably well.

Many thanks go out to all who participated. Without your help, an event of this magnitude would not be possible. Lowell National Historical Park, the Lowell Festival Foundation, the City of Lowell, the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the

National Council for Traditional Arts rely on your continued involvement in this event to keep it running so well. This year's event was the 23rd to happen here in Lowell and the continued support and involvement from the community is outstanding! Though the event does rely on individual volunteers in a big way, community groups and organizations also played a large role in staffing the festival as well. This year's contributors included: Greater Lowell Technical High School, Lowell Parks & Recreation Department, Mill City Church, Cambridge College, Old Navy, Chelmsford Key Club, Enterprise Bank, Spindle City Corps, Merrimack Valley NAACP, Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union, Armenian Relief Society, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, LAO United Church of Christ, Lowell Polish Cultural Committee, Portuguese American Center, WAT Buddha of Massachusetts, Celebration of Life, LAO American Committee, Buddachak, Iskwelahang Philipino, Lowell French Street Latin Catholic Community of Saint Patrick Parish, WAT LAO Mixayaram Temple, Hellenic American Academy PTA, and Saint George Atiochin Orthodox Church all donated countless hours of time and energy.

Volunteer Opportunities



Join us for National Public Lands Day Clean-Up - Sat, Sept 26, 9AM-1PM

We invite you to participate again this year in National Public Lands Day (NPLD), the largest single-day volunteer event to improve and enhance our nation's public lands. On the 16th annual NPLD on September 26, volunteers will plant trees, remove invasive plants, restore streams and shorelines, build hiking trails and bridges and pick up trash at nearly 2,000 parks across the country. This year NPLD is increasing efforts to involve more city governments, parks departments and nonprofit partners.

Every year NPLD focuses on an environmental theme, and this year we are educating volunteers about public lands and water resources—the importance of our rivers, lakes, estuaries and other wetlands. This national event provides parks and conservation groups with a unique opportunity to raise awareness about the longstanding importance of public lands and the environment in our everyday lives. To get involved with the NPLD cleanup efforts at Lowell National Historical Park call Deb Harding at 978-275-1888 or Lowell Canalwaters Cleaners at 978-835-5147. For more information on National Public Lands Day visit www.publiclandsday.org.

Kerouac Park Clean-up - Sat, Oct 3, 9AM-12PM Sponsored by Keep Lowell Beautiful.

Volunteers will prepare & clean park for the 11:30AM Commemorative at the Commemorative. For information about the clean up, contact Deb Harding at 978-275-1888. All are invited to attend Lowell Celebrates Karouac 2009 weekend activities. Please visit their website for more information about weekend events: www.lowellcelebrateskerouac.org.

Greenhouse Clean-up - Sat, Oct 17, 10AM Sponsored by the Community Gardens Greenhouse

Volunteers will prepare the Community Gardens Greenhouse for winter shutdown. Activities will include storing summer items, grounds clean-up, & seed harvesting. Volunteers are welcome to collect seeds for their own use. Please visit the Community Gardens Greenhouse website for more information: www.communitygardensgreenhouse.org

Be a Part of Make A Difference Day, Make A Chowder! - Sat, Oct 24, 9AM-1PM

Make A Difference Day is the most encompassing national day of helping others—a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone can participate. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, Make A Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. This year's event is Saturday, October 24, 2009, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Millions have participated.

In 2008, 3 million people cared enough about their communities to volunteer on that day, accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of towns. To get involved with the Make A Difference Day cleanup efforts at Lowell National Historical Park call Deb Harding at 978-275-1888 or Lowell Canalwaters Cleaners Executive Director Bill Moreau at 978-835-5147. For more information on Make A Difference Day go to www.usaweekend.com/diffday.

As a fun way to end the day, Lowell NHP participants are also encouraged to make a soup or chowder to share with other participants and enter a juried competition.



Volunteer Spotlight: Hank Knoblock

Like so many of our Volunteers, Hank Knoblock has many impressive accomplishments on a resumé that would be the envy of most people. He grew up in Queens, New York, graduated from Villanova University and then gained a commission in

the USMC, serving in Japan and Okinawa. Hank and his wife of many years have six children who are following in the footsteps of their parents as active and interesting people. With a BS in Economics, Hank's business career brought them to Massachusetts in 1976 and then, after retirement, to Tewksbury four years ago. Hank and Peggy have taken several courses through the Elderhostel Program and one of these sparked an interest in the history of the Textile Industry, specifically about the experiences of the Yankee farm girls who moved to Lowell in the early 1800s. After visiting both the Park and the American Textile History Museum, we were lucky



enough to have Hank volunteer his time with us, and, as Hank says, “the rest is history”.

In the time Hank has been with the Park, he has learned to work in a variety of locations, including the Boott 2nd floor, the Visitor Center Front Desk, and most recently as a First Mate on the canal tours. Spending just a short amount of time in Hank's company, it becomes evident how much he enjoys interacting with the wide variety of visitors we get at the park and always keeps a great attitude and sense of humor about him. When assisting as a First Mate, Hank takes seriously the added responsibility of a safe cruise for all.

During Hank's time away from the Park, he and Peggy both volunteer at the Tewksbury Public Library. With his knowledge of computers, he is currently transferring data from old newspaper obituaries, birth, death, and marriage records for genealogical research. And lastly, in Hank's spare time, he enjoys woodworking, making birdhouses and cork trivets as gifts for his family. As you can see, we are very fortunate to have Hank as part of our family here at Lowell NHP.