

Friends of Flight 93

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a National Park Service (NPS) Friends group?

A Friends group is a collection of individuals who have united to provide support to a particular National Park.

2. Do all National Parks have Friends groups?

There are 392 National Parks, and at least 186 Friends groups.

3. What do Friends groups do?

Here are some examples of what other Friends groups have been doing at National Parks: sponsoring concerts, exhibits and lectures, advocating for the park through public speaking, one-on-one contacts, and postings at social networking sites, purchasing equipment, removing invasive plant species, selling products that help communicate the park's themes, providing food and beverages for events, giving grants to researchers and writers, clearing trails, raising money to fund seasonal rangers and interns and expanded hours of programming, recruiting new volunteers, conducting visitor surveys, building bridges, producing educational programs, publishing Junior Ranger materials, monitoring water quality. Friends groups work closely with their NPS staffs to plan projects that meet the needs of the park.

4. Is the Friends of Flight 93 group part of the National Park Service?

The Friends Group members are not employed by the NPS (although some NPS employees are valued members of the group), nor is the group funded by the NPS. It is an independent, non-profit organization that provides support to the Memorial itself. A Letter of Intent between the Friends of Flight 93 and Flight 93 National Memorial establishes the initial intention to work together to form a friends group that will become the primary partner of the park. Once the friends group is established and has a vision of what it is and what it can do jointly with the park, a Cooperative Agreement formalizes the relationship between the two groups.

5. What will the Friends of Flight 93 do?

We will provide a wide range of supporting activities to the Memorial in cooperation and partnership with the NPS. Specific projects have not yet been planned, but will generally fall into the categories of advocating for the park and raising awareness of the memorial through small events, lectures, news stories, public speaking engagements, and social networking sites, supporting the national fundraising effort under the direction of the National Park Foundation, assisting with special events and commemorations, developing educational initiatives, engaging in civic dialogue with visitors to the temporary memorial, and/or working with natural resources at the site.

In the future, when the funds needed to complete Flight 93 National Memorial have been raised by the National Park Foundation, the Friends of Flight 93 will inherit the fundraising initiative and the donor database, ensuring that the programming and facilities at Flight 93 National Memorial are always maintained at their highest level.

6. What are the benefits of membership in the Friends of Flight 93?

Members will know the satisfaction that comes from helping to create and sustain this new National Park and making its programs available to citizens around the world, as well as ensuring that the memorial remains relative to future generations as time elapses from September 11, 2001. You'll have the opportunity to work with others who share your passion and interest in commemorating the courageous deeds of the passengers and crew of Flight 93. In the future, the organization *may* offer specific perks for membership, such as newsletters,

invitations to member-only events, advance notice of special events, and discounts on publications or merchandise.

7. How is the group organized?

The organization's by-laws state that a nine-person board, elected by the general membership, will oversee the work of the Friends. Members volunteer to serve on committees to carry out objectives outlined in the group's Strategic Plan, a document that was prepared in cooperation with the National Park Service.

8. Who makes up the Friends group?

Members of the Friends of Flight 93 include family members of the passengers and crew of Flight 93, local residents who were first responders on September 11, 2001, all sorts of community members who support the goals of Flight 93 National Memorial, and people from around the country and the world who want to see Flight 93 National Memorial be an appropriate and lasting tribute to the passengers and crew of Flight 93. Members are accountants, students, contractors, photographers, teachers, retirees, artists, mechanics, writers, nurses---truly a cross section of the population.

9. What is the relationship between the Friends group and the Volunteers at Flight 93 National Memorial?

We expect it to be a great relationship! Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) is a formal program of the NPS, and VIPs are individuals who have a formal relationship with the park where they serve. At Flight 93 National Memorial, volunteers transcribe oral history interviews, do maintenance at the temporary memorial, greet and speak with visitors at the temporary memorial as "Ambassadors", and help with a range of special projects. Many VIP's have also decided to join the Friends of Flight 93 organization because they want to support the park in other ways. VIP's can be Friends and Friends can be VIP's.

10. How often does the Friends group meet?

The Board of the Friends of Flight 93 will meet monthly, initially. Committees will meet as needed to complete their tasks. The by-laws state that the entire membership will meet at least annually, the first Monday in December.

11. Where does the Friends group get its funding?

Generous individual and corporate donors have funded the work of the Friends group to date. The Friends of Flight 93 has applied to the IRS for 501(c)3 status so that gifts to the Friends can be tax-deductible. Many Friends groups rely on pro-bono services and in-kind donations from their members and from corporations or businesses. In the future, the group will apply for grants, and may be able to develop income-producing products or services which will support the organization *and* the Memorial. At present the organization does *not* collect membership dues. In the future, however, this may become a source of revenue for the group.

12. What can I do?

The Friends of Flight 93 is driven by a common passion for preserving the memory of the 40 passengers and crew who stood as one and fought back on September 11, 2001. It is an organization that thrives on ideas and action, valuing the input of each member. We understand that the level of involvement is driven by many factors, not the least of which is the demands of family and job. There's no minimum required level of participation, nor is there an upper limit to what a person can do, as long as those activities are consistent with the bylaws and the mission statement of the group. There is plenty of room for both leaders and followers, those who can come up with ideas, and those who are good at carrying them out. We welcome you to join with us. Complete a membership/response card and return it to this address: Friends of Flight 93, P.O. Box 911, Shanksville, PA 15560. 12/2/09