

Volunteers In Parks

Job Description Sheet

Volunteers In Parks (VIP) can assist the National Park Service in many ways including visitor center operations, resource management projects, research work, historic and natural history programs, clerical assistance, historic restoration, park maintenance, and more.

**Job Title: Historian Assistant/Researcher,
Fort Smith National Historic Site**

Job Description:

The Fort Smith National Historic Site continues to be a main research center for the region. Research conducted here involves every aspect of Fort Smith from 1817 to 1896. The park also has in storage hundreds of paper documents, maps, microfilm, and digitized information. In order to keep up with the vast amount of research requests a VIP Historian Assistant/Researcher is in high demand. This assistant will provide help to staff, volunteers, and researchers looking for specific books, files or any research material the park currently has. The VIP may be called upon to find files, answer research requests, and will work in conjunction with the park historian to further the knowledge and understanding of Fort Smith. VIP uniform provided.

Skills Needed / Preferred:

- ability to accurately and honestly conduct research
- willingness to work with staff, researchers, etc. to help find selected files and research material
- flexibility for various types of schedules
- ability to be detail oriented and work well without supervision

Goals / Outcomes of Job:

Help promote the study, research quality, understanding, and appreciation of the importance of Fort Smith.

Benefits to Volunteers (note training if applicable):

Ability to work with researchers; learn Fort Smith's story; build research and filing skills; help enhance researcher and park staff research ability; Gain experience with the National Park Service; Ability to "give back" to the National Park Service; VIP uniform provided

Number of volunteers needed: Numbers Vary

Location of Position:	Supervisor:	VIP Coordinator	Phone:
Visitor Center Library and Research/File Storage Area	Loren McLane	Cody Faber	479-783-3961

Firearms in the Park:

Under 43 C.F.R. § 20.511, Departmental volunteers in the course of their official duties are prohibited from possessing firearms on property under control of the Department. Because of the stated purpose of the sponsors of Section 512 to provide uniformity under applicable state law from bureau-to-bureau, the potential liability issues that could result, and the absence of any criminal penalties applicable to this regulation, this Departmental policy continues to apply to all NPS/FWS employees and volunteers during their official duties. Volunteers who are not on official duty may possess firearms on Departmental lands under the same conditions applicable to members of the general public, according to P.L. 111-24, Section 512. For this purpose, volunteers are considered the same as other employees when engaged in their official activities.