



Gettysburg National Military Park

United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service



Gettysburg National Military Park Adopt A Position Program (AAP)

Schedules:

The Spring 2010 Adopt a Position Program will run from March 28th through May 30th 2010. Contact the program coordinator Angel De Jesus at (717) 334-5533, or via email angel_dejesus@nps.gov to arrange for your group's work day. There will be no work performed on federal holidays or on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please remember to schedule your work dates two weeks in advance and do not work at your site without contacting the program coordinator.

Volunteer Agreements:

In the past we have required that each group or individual renew their commitment to the AAP program by signing a volunteer agreement every two years. The current agreements will be good for a minimum of two years and will renew automatically unless either the group or individuals involved in the program or the National Park Service cancel the agreement. The contact person for any group who wishes to terminate their agreement should contact the park AAP coordinator. If we do not have your current address, please contact the AAP coordinator Angel De Jesus with your new contact information.

Progress Report:

During the 2008 program year, the AAP volunteers helped the Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP) with many projects. Volunteers got an incredible amount of work accomplished during the course of the 2009 program. The AAP program had 1,541 volunteers who helped us to complete a total of 6,967.75 hours of work in and around the Gettysburg battlefield. Many volunteer groups went the extra mile and helped us with work outside of their assigned areas. Without our volunteers this work would not have been accomplished. Thank you for your participation in the program and for helping us to preserve and maintain the battlefield at Gettysburg. There are numerous sites throughout the park that are waiting for adoption and for some caring individuals and groups to give these areas that extra touch to honor those brave

soldiers who have sacrificed their all on this hallowed ground!

Here are samples of projects performed by volunteer groups:



Volunteers from Dover Air Force Base clearing brush from fences on the Leister Farm. Fall 2009.
(NPS Photo)



Volunteers from the Longstreet Society, painting benches at the Pitzer Woods Amphitheater. Fall 2009.
(NPS photo)

Adopt A Position General Information and Guidelines

Overview:

The purpose of the Adopt-A-Position (AAP) program is to engage volunteers in helping to meet goals as established by the Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP) to maintain the historic setting of the battlefield. Volunteers (VIPs) help us by performing field maintenance and labor that otherwise would not be completed due to budget and/or staffing restraints.

VIPs donate time and labor in preserving regimental positions, battery locations, or brigade lines. In most cases, regimental or battery positions will include a monument. Monuments like any historical feature on the battlefield have additional contributing elements. The elements include the foundation mounds (an important structural element of most of the regimental monuments) surrounding grounds, adjacent fences or walls, earthworks, any trails or walks to the sites, and may include the pasture in which the monument stands. All of these areas are important to the monument and the positions held by the Union or Confederate troops during the battle. The park will provide site assessments to outline the maintenance needs of each site.

Site Assessments

Volunteer Work May Include:

- Applying topsoil, seed and straw (materials provided by park) to eroded monument mounds.
- Raking and spreading grass seed on bare areas (monument mounds, turf areas, etc.).
- Raking leaves.
- Clearing brush from fences, stone walls, structures, earthworks and fortifications.
- Re-stacking stone fences; fence restoration.
- Building and repair fences.
- Painting fences (paint and supplies will be provided).
- Clearing pastures of weed growth and exotic shrubbery such as multi-flora rose and Japanese barberry.
- Painting artillery carriages.
- Planting seedlings.
- Repairing and/or maintaining trails.
- Collecting litter

Guidelines:

VIPs cannot work directly on a monument due to strict National Park Service technical standards designed for the protection of the physical condition of each monument.

Monument sites can receive treatments varying from general spruce up to labor-intensive landscape work. The park also has "orphan" positions available that include historic stonewalls and/or sections of fences or trails not identified with any particular military unit.

Note on Equipment: Volunteers are not permitted to use chainsaws. Park provided hand tools are limited and will be issued out by the AAP Staff your adopted location and will be picked up at the end of your work session.

To Adopt A Position:

If you or your group are interested in the AAP program and would like to adopt a site, please contact Angel De Jesus, who is the Adopt a Position Coordinator, at (717) 334-5533 extension 20. A two-year commitment is required of volunteers to work a minimum of one day each during the spring and fall program. The individual or contact representative for a group will arrange a date two weeks before the time that a work party will be at the adopted site and provide the necessary support equipment to accomplish the goals for the site. All work at the project site must be pre-arranged with the AAP Coordinator. The address for the coordinator is:

Angel M. De Jesus Jr.
Gettysburg National Military Park

405 Taneytown Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325
717-334-5533

Angel_Dejesus@nps.gov



Volunteers at work on Weikert Farm, Fall 2009.
(NPS Photo)

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by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.
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National Park Service
[Gettysburg National Military Park](#)
1195 Baltimore Pike
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325