



Volunteers in Parks Program

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

List of Identified Needs 2014

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need
At least one 10 hour day May - Oct	Parkwide NC & TN projects based on greatest need	<u>Trails Forever Program:</u> A partnership between Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Friends of the Smokies to complete trail rehabilitation projects in the Park. Required: Volunteers must commit to at least one 10 hour workday, be able to hike a minimum of 4 miles, use hand tools (shovels, fire rakes, pulaskis, sledgehammers) and provide personal gear for the day (water, food, rain gear, appropriate clothing, boots). Duties: Volunteers perform a wide range of trail maintenance and trail re-construction while working alongside a Park Trail Crew. These projects include but are not limited to installing drainage structures, rehabilitating trail surfaces, constructing staircases, and removing vegetation. Contact Jamie Sanders for the schedule of workdays at jamie_sanders@nps.gov.
1-2 hours, monthly Mar-Nov	Varied (TN)	<u>Adopt-A-Vista Program:</u> Required: Must be in good physical condition and capable of walking up/down uneven and sometimes steep terrain; requires commitment to visit vista min. 6 times/year. Desired: Remove litter and garbage from parking area and surrounding vegetation; perform brushing of new growth of small vegetation to keep view open; clear debris from parking area; and complete a work report for each visit.
1-2 hours, monthly year-round	Gatlinburg Spur (between Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge)	<u>Adopt-A-Spur Program:</u> A community partnership roadside litter patrol on an assigned section of the Spur. Required: Volunteers must be 18 years of age and older due to roadside safety concerns on this busy roadway. Ability to walk over uneven terrain and carry light loads.
1-2 hours, monthly year-round	Lakeview Drive (NC)	<u>Adopt-Lakeview Drive Program:</u> A community partnership roadside litter patrol on the Lakeview Drive north of Bryson City, NC. Required: Volunteers must be 18 years of age and older due to roadside safety concerns on this busy roadway. Ability to walk over uneven terrain and carry light loads.
Flexible Needed from January-March	Twin Creeks Greenhouse (TN)	<u>Greenhouse Assistant (Native Plant Propagation):</u> Required: No experience needed, but attention to detail and patience necessary. Duties: Sowing and transplanting seedlings for Park restoration and revegetation projects. Can work sitting or standing at potting bench in greenhouse. Optional: Plant seedlings in early Spring throughout the Park – primarily Cades Cove.

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need
32 hours per week RV Site with full hookups provided	Cades Cove Elkmont Oconaluftee	<p>Roadside Assistant Volunteers: Volunteers work in teams of 2 (generally married couples) to provide roadside assistance. At least one team member MUST have prior law enforcement experience which allows for better recognition of hazards that should be avoided and passed along to park rangers.</p> <p>Duties: Couples drive a courtesy patrol vehicle that is clearly identified as a 'non-law enforcement vehicle'. Volunteers assist in traffic control, provide minor roadside assistance (fluids, battery jump starts, unlock vehicles), assist with traffic control associated with wildlife viewing, and provide visitors with information and directions.</p>
Variable-as needed	Your Home	<p>Report Series Editor: Resource Management and Science staff regularly submit resource inventory and monitoring reports to the Natural Resource Management Program (NRPM) (http://www.nature.nps.gov/publicaitons/NRPM/index.cfm#nrds). NRPM utilizes three different report templates to capture this information. The process requires the transfer of information from existing reports into one of the report series required templates. Duties: Volunteers would take an existing report and reformat it to fit the identified NRPM template. Required: Personal computer with Microsoft Word software and an email account capable of sending/receiving file sizes of 10mb or less. Proficiency with Microsoft Word and report editing.</p>
Varies throughout the year and depending on location	Cataloochee	<p>Bicycle Patrol: Required: Ability to meet and deal with the public in a positive, friendly and helpful manner. Must be physically fit with the ability to ride a bicycle for extended periods of time. Personally owned bicycle and helmet are required. Desired: EMS (First Aid/CPR) training, Interest in Law Enforcement or Wildlife Management Duties: Provide general information to park visitors concerning bicycle safety, park regulations, wildlife viewing guidelines, and natural and cultural resources. Regularly inform Park Rangers of visitor issues through radio communication. Provide assistance to Park Ranger staff during emergency situations. Perform routine traffic management duties. Manage public use relating to wildlife viewing, bike closure, special events and other special needs.</p>
Saturdays 4-6 hours Bimonthly	Parkwide	<p>Water Quality Data Collection: Volunteer will collect base flow water quality sampling from select park watersheds. Required: Any age individuals with ability to hike short distances (<1 mile). Participants less than 18 years old must have an adult legal guardian. Duties: This is an ongoing effort to collect water samples from select park streams in order to monitor stream water chemistry. This is one of the longest running monitoring efforts in GRSM, as well as the nation. Volunteers will be paired with volunteers from local Trout Unlimited Chapters who will train and lead the volunteers during their collections. Most collections are made on Saturdays and require roughly 4-6 hours.</p>

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need
Flexible intermittent	Parkwide	<p><u>Assisting the ATBI (All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory):</u> Required: Volunteer seeking to work in a fun, friendly, small work environment. Volunteer will contribute to the largest "science project" in the Smokies, gain new job skills/maintain existing job skills, meet Park personnel, local business owners, scientists from across the country, and make new friends. Duties: Volunteers work in 5 main areas: Fieldwork; Clerical; Education/Outreach; Special Events/Fundraising; and/or Computer/Technical. For more information on the opportunities available in each category; please contact us. Also see www.dlia.org/volunteer-job-descriptions.</p>
Flexible	Parkwide	<p><u>Roving Angler Surveys:</u> Volunteer will survey anglers to assess fish catch and harvest rates. Current Project. Required: Participants must 18 years or older and have a valid state drivers license. This opportunity requires the use of a government vehicle which requires passing additional training. Duties: This is an ongoing effort to supplement the angler surveys conducted by GRSM Law Enforcement Rangers and fisheries staff. The Park will provide a vehicle and the volunteer will drive and walk roads and trails along GRSM streams looking for anglers to interview. Anglers are asked a brief series of questions regarding where they are from, how long they have been fishing and what they have caught. Once completed, the volunteer may assist the fishery biologist with entry of angler creel survey data into Microsoft Access database.</p>
Flexible mid-March through October, spring most important. Need commitment for several different weeks.	Purchase Knob Tremont Twin Creeks Oconaluftee Deep Creek Newfound Gap Clingmans Dome	<p><u>Adopt-a-Phenology-Plot:</u> The park is using volunteers to assist with monitoring the timing of tree leaf-out and fall brown down. Required: Moderate walking short distances over trails or uneven ground. Duties: VIP visits plots to rate the growth state of 20 trees. Data entry helpful. Ideally can commit to 1x per week or every other week for several consecutive weeks.</p>
Flexible mid-March through October, spring most important. Need commitment for several different weeks.	Purchase Knob	<p><u>Monitor Wildflower Phenology:</u> The park is using volunteers to assist with monitoring the timing of plant blooming. Required: Ability to identify some common plant species and possibly other natural history skills; moderate walking short distances over trails or uneven ground. Duties: VIP visits plots to count number of blooms of different species within established plots. Data entry helpful. Some opportunity to explore adding new types of phenology to monitor, such as bird and caterpillar activity. To complete all plots at the site takes about 4 hours, plus travel to and from Purchase Knob. Ideally can commit to 1x per week or every other week for several consecutive weeks.</p>

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need
Mon-Thu 8:00 – 5:00 Mar-Oct: Scouting Oct-Mar: Spraying	Parkwide	<p><u>Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Control:</u> Required: Must be 18 years or older and in good physical condition (duties vary according to skill and fitness level). Duties: (1) Chemical control of HWA with systemic insecticide treatments. <u>Arduous activity that requires training. Must commit to a schedule;</u> identify HWA infested areas and plot location utilizing GPS and topographic maps. (2) Assist HWA crew with spraying along roadsides, heavily-visited and developed areas with insecticidal soap using high-pressure spray equipment. Oconaluftee and Gatlinburg locations.</p>
Variable	Parkwide and in local communities	<p><u>Outreach Programmer:</u> Required: Ability to communicate with the public, learn about the Park's natural and cultural resources, and communicate orally and conduct a thematic program. Training involves one-year as special program interpreter; limited team space available. Desired: Past experience in presenting thematic interpretative style programs; personal knowledge of the natural and cultural history of the Park. Duties: Present assigned Outreach programs.</p>
32 hours per week, one month minimum time requirement to qualify for lodging; other options negotiable	Mountain Farm Museum, Oconaluftee (NC)	<p><u>Cultural Resources Interpreter:</u> Required: Ability to communicate and work well with the public and learn Park and Southern Appalachian cultural history. Desired: Past experience in costumed interpretative demonstrations; extensive knowledge of historical farming practices in the So. Appalachians. Duties: Interpret cultural history to 2,000 visitors/day in period clothing or VIP uniform; ranges from opening/closing museum to general house-keeping and feeding livestock; demonstrations include domestic skills, farming blacksmithing, etc.</p>
8 hours per month March-May September-Nov. Monday-Saturday	TN side of the park depending on the program	<p><u>Environmental Educator:</u> Required: Ability to communicate and teach curriculum based education programs. Programs are presented to grades Kindergarten through High School, and the volunteer would need to feel comfortable teaching to at least one grade level of Kindergarten through High School. Ability to learn about the Park's natural and cultural resources and present the information to school groups. Volunteer must have some experience teaching education programs in either a school, park, or with a non-profit agency. Volunteer will observe programs and be evaluated before teaching programs. Duties: Present assigned education programs to school groups visiting the park.</p>
32 hours per week RV Site with full hookups provided	Smokemont Cades Cove Elkmont Big Creek Deep Creek Cataloochee	<p><u>Campground Host:</u> The campground host's primary duty is to assist the ranger staff of the assigned campground in the operation of the campground and surrounding area in a manner that protects the park resources and promotes a safe and enjoyable visitor experience. The host is expected to set the example in complying with all park and campground rules and regulations. The host will keep the ranger staff advised on conditions within the campground including vacancy status, problem visitors, illness or injury to visitors, hazardous conditions, weather conditions, wildlife observations, maintenance and supply needs.</p>

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need
4 hours per week	Oconaluftee River Trail, Mountain Farm Museum, and fields along Hwy 441	<u>Oconaluftee Rover:</u> Required: Ability to communicate with the public and stand/walk for 4-hour periods outside. Desired: Personal knowledge of natural and cultural history of the Park. Duties: Participant will rove Oconaluftee Area including the Oconaluftee River Trail, Mountain Farm Museum, and fields along Hwy 441. Participant will provide information to visitors regarding various park regulations including littering, disturbing wildlife, and approaching wildlife. When elk are present in the fields, participant will primarily aid in traffic management. Participants will work a 4 hour evening shift.
4-8 hours per week	Cades Cove Loop Road, The Mill, Trailheads, and other areas in Cades Cove	<u>Cades Cove Rover:</u> Required: Ability to communicate with the public and stand/walk for 4-hour periods outside. Desired: Personal knowledge of natural and cultural history of the Park. Duties: Participant will rove the Cades Cove area of the park informing and educating visitors on the historic structures and landscapes of the Cove. Participant will provide information to visitors regarding various park regulations including littering, disturbing wildlife, and approaching wildlife.
4-8 hours per week	Sugarlands Visitor Center, Oconaluftee Visitor Center, Clingman's Dome Contact Station, Gatlinburg Welcome Center	<u>Information Assistant:</u> Required: Ability to communicate and work with the public, learn the Park's cultural history, and read maps and give directions. Desired: Previous experience in working an information desk; personal know-ledge of natural and cultural history of the Park; knowledge of Park road and trail systems and flora and fauna; and ability to stand for most of 4-hour day and lift small packages. Duties: Provide information to visitors on one-to-one or group basis to facilitate a safe, informed visit.
seasonal and negotiable	Sugarlands Visitor Center (TN) Oconaluftee Visitor Center (NC)	<u>Native Plants Gardener:</u> Required: Knowledge of plant identification and gardening techniques with native and non-native plants. Desired: Experience with horticulture and/or landscaping, especially with native plants; ability to perform moderate physical labor. Duties: Assist vegetation management technicians with planting, weeding, and maintenance of native plant garden; may also assist with other landscaping and vegetation projects as interested.
32 hours per week April-Nov RV Site with full hookups provided	Cades Cove, TN	<u>Litter Patrol & Maintenance Assistant:</u> Required: Valid driver's license. Duties: Assist in litter patrol on Loop Road, cleaning historic buildings, painting, building repair, office assistance, custodial services in administration buildings, and raking/pruning/pick-up in campground.



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Group Projects 2014

***These are projects available to groups.

***As with all outdoor activities, these types of projects may be weather dependent.

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Lodging
8-hour minimum 40 hours/person minimum to qualify for group campsite	Widely scattered locations; mostly in NC; some areas require hiking in	<p><u>Exotic Vegetation Control:</u> Required: Ability to identify target plant species (with instruction), walk safely on uneven and/or steep terrain, and follow safety guidelines, particularly those involving poison ivy, stinging insects and snakes. Volunteers must be 12 years or older. Duties: Manually remove various exotic plant species including Garlic Mustard, Japanese Honeysuckle, Privet and English Ivy. Methods include hand pulling and use of loppers and clippers. Vegetation may be bagged or piled depending on species and site.</p>	A group campsite can be provided; no other lodging is available
Flexible	Field locations, Parkwide	<p><u>Seed Collection:</u> Required: No required skills. Desired: Knowledge of plant and tree identification. Duties: Collect a variety of native plant and tree seeds. Seeds will be processed by the SCS, germinated, and returned to the Park as seedlings for re-vegetation projects. Adult supervision required -- may require use of small step ladders. Timing is critical -- this work must be performed in the 1-3 weeks when seeds are present. Time period varies with plant species.</p>	none
8-hour minimum	Various Locations	<p><u>Fence Removal:</u> Volunteers would use hand tools to remove unneeded barbwire fencing that detracts from the historical scene, impedes the natural flow of wildlife through the valley, and interferes with personnel and equipment transport/operations during prescribed burning operations. Required: Volunteers must wear long pants, long sleeves, sun protection, and be able to handle small rolls of barbwire. Leather gloves will be provided.</p>	none

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Lodging
1-2 hours, monthly year-round	Gatlinburg Spur (between Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge)	<p><u>Adopt-A-Spur Program:</u> A community partnership roadside litter patrol on an assigned section of the Spur, ranging from .3 to 1 mile in length.</p> <p>Required: Volunteers must be 18 years of age or accompanied by 1 adult per 6 students due to roadside safety concerns on this busy roadway. Ability to walk over uneven terrain and carry light loads.</p>	none
At least one 10 hour day May – Oct	Parkwide; project location based on greatest Park need	<p><u>Trails Forever Program:</u> A partnership between Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Friends of the Smokies to complete trail rehabilitation projects in the Park. Required: Volunteers must commit to at least one 10 hour workday, be able to hike a minimum of 4 miles, use hand tools (shovels, fire rakes, pulaskis, sledgehammers) and provide personal gear for the day (water, food, rain gear, appropriate clothing, boots). Duties: Volunteers perform a wide range of trail maintenance and trail re-construction while working alongside a Park Trail Crew. These projects include but are not limited to installing drainage structures, rehabilitating trail surfaces, constructing staircases, and removing vegetation. Contact Christine Hoyer for the schedule of workdays.</p>	A group campsite can be provided; no other lodging is available
2-hour minimum	Parkwide	<p><u>Roadside, Overlook & Picnic Area Litter Removal:</u></p> <p>Required: No skills required.</p> <p>Desired: Ability to walk over uneven terrain (some steep) and carry light loads. Work can be accomplished by young volunteers, but age 8 years and older preferred due to roadside safety concerns.</p>	none

NOTE: VIP group projects help meet needs due to understaffing and budget constraints. Limited availability of Park staff for project prep/supervision requires a firm commitment to project date. Participation from groups for one-time service projects requires personal commitment from leaders and participants.

- It is important to:
- (1) select a project suitable to your group's age, skills and abilities;
 - (2) be on time; and
 - (3) be properly prepared for the work to be done (appropriate clothing, food and water, and personal needs).