

Rocky Mountain National Park



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Volunteer Newsletter, Spring 2012

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*"You make a living by
what you get. You
make a life by what you
give."*

-Winston Churchill

Volunteer Office Staff and Hours

Signs of spring are everywhere at Rocky Mountain National Park... the snow is melting, the bull elk are growing this season's antlers and the volunteer office is as busy as ever! We're glad to see so many returning volunteers and welcome those new to the program too!

This year's Volunteer Program Office Staff and Volunteers include:

Lindsey Prell, Volunteer Program Manager (an introduction on page 2). Lindsey will be spending the season familiarizing herself with Rocky's VIP program policies, learning about the various programs and volunteer groups and conducting VIP Program introductions at various volunteer orientations throughout the park.

Flo Bielat, Volunteer Program Assistant Manager. Flo will once again be taking on the responsibilities of overseeing the group volunteer program as well as providing a plethora of other skills and talents to the volunteer program. This is Flo's seventh year of involvement in Rocky's VIP Program!

Don Seedle, Volunteer Program Volunteer Extraordinaire. Don has been a volunteer at Rocky Mountain for an amazing twenty-two years! He has been taking the lead for organizing the Chowbusters, handling incoming volunteer applications, updating our database and providing all around expertise in everything related to the VIP Program. His dog, Brita also assists in keeping office morale high!

Penny Windsor, Volunteer Program Intern. Penny will be returning this season to assist in a variety of ways, including leading volunteer groups and providing administrative support.

The Volunteer Office has been extremely busy this time of year. Appointments with the staff are not required but are recommended.

VIP Office Hours

Now through June 9, 2012
Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4 pm
June 10-September 8
Open 7days/week 8:30 am-4 pm

VIP Office Phone Numbers

Lindsey Prell 970-586-1330
Flo Bielat 970-586-1306
Don Seedle/Penny Windsor 970-586-1372

VIP Program Website

www.nps.gov/romo/supportyourpark/volunteer

Join Volunteer Program Staff and Volunteers for an Open House!

On Friday, June 1 from 4-6pm, the Volunteer Office is hosting an open house for current volunteers and interns as well as those who are interested in volunteering at Rocky Mountain. Come on by! The VIP Office is located on the edge of the utility area behind the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center. Please feel free to bring in copies of your favorite volunteer pictures to add to our Volunteer Bulletin Board!



New Rocky Mountain Volunteer Program Manager, Lindsey Prell

I am thrilled to be joining the team at Rocky Mountain National Park! On April 30, I officially hit the ground running as the Park's new Volunteer Program Manager.

Originally from Wisconsin, my interest in volunteerism and a love of the outdoors began at an early age. In 2001 and 2002, I served 2,250 hours as a volunteer/intern with the Student Conservation Association. My internships were at the White Sands National Monument, the Petrified Forest National Park, the Student Conservation Association Headquarters in New Hampshire, on Capitol Hill as a Congressional Intern for Congressman Ron Kind of Wisconsin, and finally as a backcountry patrol intern in Yosemite. Needless to say, I was hooked.

After graduating with a degree in Geography from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, I traveled to Alaska where I worked as a lead naturalist onboard an adventure boat which traveled between Juneau and Sitka on eight-day trips. During that time, I guided kayak and hiking trips in some of our most remote destinations in the NPS including Admiralty Island, Glacier Bay and Misty Fjords, among others. After my season on the boat, I moved inland to Girdwood Alaska, working as the Hiring and Education Coordinator for the Southeast Alaska Guidance Association. There, I facilitated educational and service-learning opportunities for seventy Americorps members stationed on public lands throughout Alaska's wild interior. From there, I traded in my Xtratuffs for some flipflops and spent a short season as a hiking and snorkeling guide in the US and British Virgin Islands.



In 2007, I began settling down and moved to Flagstaff Arizona, where I was the Special Events and Programs Coordinator for Coconino County Parks and Recreation (CCPR). During that time, I coordinated large events and began CCPR's first ever outdoor recreation programming, which included service projects during Global Youth Service Day and hiking, snowshoeing and fishing trips. I also worked as a part-time backpacking guide in the Grand Canyon for a private outfitter.

In 2009, I began my Park Service career in Yosemite as the Volunteer Coordinator Assistant and most recently, as the Volunteer Coordinator for the Division of Resources Management and Science. Yosemite is home to the second largest volunteer program in the NPS (nearly 10,000 volunteers in 2011).

And now... Rocky Mountain! I am really looking forward to working with all of you (staff and volunteers alike). It's easy to see that Rocky is home to one of the best volunteer programs in the NPS and I am thrilled to be a part of it!

In my free time, I enjoy hiking, cooking, yoga and traveling with my boyfriend, Jon. Most recently, we traveled to Belize and Guatemala in January... where we fished, snorkeled, hiked and relaxed on the beach.

Wilderness, Wildlife, and Wonder... That's the new slogan for the park's centennial in 2015.

The winning entry was submitted by park volunteer Beth Honea. She has been a volunteer since 1997 and has contributed nearly 1000 hours in many different capacities including Bighorn Brigade and the Information Office. Here's what Beth wrote on her submission form: "A nod to our recent wilderness designation, recognition of what many people visit the park to encounter, and the feeling they experience in their heart and soul in seeing Rocky for the first or the one hundredth time."

On April 30, the Anniversary Committee met for the first time to choose finalists for the Employee/Volunteer Slogan Contest. Of the 57 entries, the committee chose four that they thought represented different aspects of Rocky Mountain National Park and the centennial celebration. The management team then voted on the four selections. This slogan will be used with an official logo as part of a 100th Anniversary Signature that will be used to establish a visual identity for the centennial and build public awareness of the fundraising, retail/products, and event/program development phases of 100th Anniversary planning and implementation. The purpose of the slogan is to represent the important aspects of Rocky Mountain National Park that we want employees and visitors to associate with the 100th Anniversary, to symbolize the past, present and future of RMNP, and to provide direction for the mission, vision, and celebration of the park's centennial.

With the centennial year scheduled to kick off on September 4, 2014, we will start to see more activity related to the anniversary. A nationwide logo contest is up next. Stay tuned for details. -Vaughn Baker (Superintendent)

Volunteer Rights and Responsibilities

Volunteer Rights

Volunteers have the right to:

1. Receive the same fair personnel practices as paid staff.
2. Have their time used effectively.
3. Receive clear and non-conflicting guidance and direction.
4. Be kept informed of activities pertaining to their volunteer assignments.
5. Not undertake assignments they do not wish to do.
6. Receive appropriate orientation, training, (especially safety training) and supervision.
7. Be assigned jobs that are worthwhile and challenging.
8. Be made aware of the overall operation of the park.
9. Have opportunities for growth.
10. Be offered a variety of experiences.
11. Receive regular, clear feedback on the quality and effectiveness of their work.
12. Be recognized for their contributions.
13. Have an opportunity to provide input into the volunteer program.
14. Be trusted with the information needed to carry out their jobs effectively.
15. Be assigned a direct supervisor.

Volunteer Responsibilities

Volunteers have the responsibility to:

1. Represent the National Park Service in a professional manner.
2. Follow the park's policies and guidelines and understand its organizational structure.
3. Seek and accept the guidance and support needed to complete assignments.
4. Work as a team with paid staff and respect mutual roles.
5. Be reliable in fulfilling assignments.
6. Do a quality, professional job.
7. Respect access to information, facilities and equipment, etc.
8. Learn from and participate in training sessions and meetings.
9. Provide notice of absence.
10. Make a good-faith effort to resolve differences or problems.
11. Care for park resources.
12. Work safely and smartly.
13. Wear the volunteer uniform appropriately and professionally.

Volunteer Benefits

In addition to the personal benefits of volunteer work, there are a number of benefits provided to volunteers by Rocky Mountain National Park to show appreciation for the work they do. Benefits include:

- Free entrance pass. Passes are issued at the initial training and orientation and require a regular tour of duty (for example, one afternoon per week on a regular schedule). Volunteers will receive their annual park pass when they enter on duty for their first volunteer position of the year (exceptions may be granted). Pass holders are required to stop at the entrance station to present their passes each time they enter the park; photo identification can be requested as well. Volunteers who already possess existing passes such as the Senior Pass, may use them to enter the park as well. Transfer of any pass to others for use will result in revocation of this free entry privilege.
- Free backcountry camping permits when campsites are available. Volunteers do not have the privilege of free front country campsites unless the use is necessary to complete a volunteer duty (for example, a VIP who lives on the east side of the park could use a Colorado River District front country campsite when working for two days in the Colorado River District due to the distance of travel between the VIP's home and work area).
- Regular, quarterly volunteer newsletters.
- Volunteer recognition event and awards at the end of the summer.
- Volunteers may attend one free day-long seminar given by the Rocky Mountain Nature Association if space is available. Please call 970-586-3262 for details.

Estes Valley Recreation and Park District is Recruiting Volunteers for Fish Creek Trail Wildlife Tours

Estes Valley Recreation and Park District (EVRPD) is recruiting volunteers to serve as interpreters at the new Fish Creek Trail extension located between Scott Avenue to the Homer Rouse Trailhead Parking area. EVRPD would like to provide safe, educational, and exciting tours throughout this new trail extension highlighting the beaver ponds and active colonies in this area as well as the elk, and various other wildlife that inhabit this stretch of trail. Interested volunteers are requested to contact Executive Director, Skyler Rorabaugh, in regard to more information at 970-586-8191 or via email at skyler@evrpd.com. Note that volunteer hours on this project will not be credited towards NPS service hours.

Introducing Alix Jensen, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator for Restoration Projects!



This is my first time working in RMNP. I have been working in the greenhouse all winter, probably the nicest spot in the park during those windy days! And soon I will be working with Dyan Harden as the Assistant Volunteer Coordinator for restoration projects during the summer of 2012.

I am from Verona, WI and graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Madison with my BS in conservation biology. I am enjoying being able to combine my interest in protecting natural resources with my passion for working with people.

Introducing Andrew Redman, West Side Volunteer Program Assistant!



Andrew Redman is returning for his third season at Rocky Mountain National Park. He is currently working in the backcountry office and is excited to begin his new position as the Volunteer Program Assistant on June 3rd.

A Bloomington, Indiana native, and Indiana University graduate, Andrew has a passion for serving the public while protecting our nation's natural and cultural resources. This past summer he was the Volunteer Coordinator for Colorado Preservation, Inc.'s 2012 Saving Places Conference and has volunteered countless hours for various agencies. Andrew is eager to start his new position and combine his passions for volunteerism with natural and cultural resource protection.

Recruitment Corner

Volunteers Needed for Waste Stream Audit

A waste stream audit is a structured process used to quantify the specific types of materials that make up the total waste stream. Information from the audit will help to identify current waste practices and how they can be improved.

Day: Sunday, July 15th 2012

Time: 7 AM – 4 PM

Lunch, refreshments, and entertainment provided

Volunteers will help collect and sort the waste that is being audited. Please bring a hat, closed toed shoes, reusable water bottle, and grungy clothing.

****Volunteers will receive a free night of camping in RMNP the night before the audit****

Please sign up by July 1st, 2012 by contacting Elliot Dale with the Institute for the Built Environment at CSU at (970) 491-5041 or elliott.dale@colostate.edu

New Volunteer Recruitment Website: www.volunteer.gov

Rocky Mountain National Park is now using volunteer.gov to recruit for available volunteer positions. To see current openings, go to the website and run a keyword search for "Rocky Mountain National Park". You can apply for specific positions directly. Also remember that we still accept paper applications for those without internet access.

Volunteers Needed: Ride the Rockies

We are currently looking for volunteers willing to assist in the Ride the Rockies bicycle tour, which is coming through the Park on June 14. Volunteers are needed along the Trail Ridge Road corridor on both sides of the Park to help Park staff manage the event. Volunteers must be willing to work between the hours of 5:30am-3:30pm (any or all of the time). If you're interested, please contact the Volunteer Office by COB June 4. 970-586-1330.

Rocky Mountain National Park and National Geographic Team up for the 2012 BioBlitz



On August 24 and 25, 2012, the sixth in the series of National Park Service-National Geographic Society BioBlitzes is scheduled to take place in Rocky Mountain National Park. The event is being held each year leading up to the National Park Service Centennial in 2016.

Hundreds of scientists, students, teachers, and volunteers will gather to participate in this event, a two-day celebration of biodiversity which centers on a 24-hour discovery of species. Teams of experts and volunteers will explore the park's majestic mountains, meadows, lakes, streams, forests and tundra to have as many personal species discoveries as possible.

Another wonderful part of the event is a two-day, family friendly biodiversity festival, featuring fun activities, engaging speakers, information booths, and scientific demonstrations. The festival will be held at the Estes Park Fairgrounds in Stanley Park.

A call for BioBlitz volunteers will go out this summer from the Volunteer Office. Stay tuned for additional details and volunteer position openings!

THANKS!

A special thanks to Leslie Brodhead, for "holding down the fort" over the course of the winter as our Acting Volunteer Coordinator! As of May 6th, she has returned to her assignment as a seasonal ranger interpreter on the East Side of the Park, with some extra duties this season. You will see her around at Visitor Centers and conducting walks and talks. If you see her, be sure to thank her for her service to the Volunteer Program!



We're Jumping for Joy!

Did you know that if you have volunteered 250 hours or more since 2007, you are eligible for an Interagency Volunteer Pass? This pass is very similar to the America the Beautiful Pass or the Golden Age Pass and will allow you free access to most public lands for one year. If you are eligible, please contact the VIP Program Office for a copy of the Volunteer Pass Request Form.

Rocky Volunteer Sandy Osterman Wins Estes Park Volunteer of the Year Award!



On May, 1st, Sandy Osterman, long-time Rocky Mountain volunteer and dedicated community volunteer, was awarded a 2012 Estes Park Pride Award. Sandy was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for her outstanding leadership as President of the Ambassadors, a group that works at the Estes Park Visitor Center.

Following her award, the Ambassadors were recognized as the Volunteer Group of the Year. We are proud of Sandy's contribution to Rocky Mountain National Park and the community of Estes Park. Way to go Sandy!





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Volunteer Program Office
Rocky Mountain National Park
1000 Highway 36
Estes Park, CO 80517

Upcoming Events

Longs Peak/Wild Basin VIP Orientation	May 25
Volunteer Open House	June 1
Tundra Guardians VIP Orientation	June 5
Chowbusters VIP Orientation	June 8
Fee Free Day	June 9
Ride the Rockies	June 14
East Side Volunteer Recognition Event	August 8
West Side Volunteer Recognition Event	August 10
Rocky Mountain BioBlitz	August 24-25

Seasonal Orientation... Volunteers are invited!

Volunteers are invited to attend this year's Seasonal Orientations. The East Side orientation will be held at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center on Tuesday, June 12 from 8:30-10am. The West Side orientation will be on Monday, June 11 (see your supervisor for details). We hope you can join us!

