



Volunteer at a Florida State Park!



The first two-time Gold Medal winner honoring the nation's best state park system, the Florida Park Service is one of the largest in the country with 160 parks spanning 700,000 acres and 100 miles of sandy white beach. With 18,000,000 visitors every year it is a challenge to provide quality visitor services with just over 1,000 employees. Fortunately over 7,000 volunteers contribute over one million hours per year which is equivalent to 505 full time positions.

The mission of the Florida Park Service is to provide resource-based recreation while preserving, interpreting and restoring natural and cultural resources. The objective of volunteer service with the Florida Park Service is to expand the state's ability to provide quality service, professionalism, support and stewardship without increasing the cost to visitors and taxpayers.

As a volunteer, you can help achieve these goals in a variety of ways. Unlike a professional job that may or may not be how you'd like to spend your spare time, volunteers can select the activity that they enjoy doing the most. Do you like to talk? Perhaps a tour guide or a park greeter would fit the bill. Love animals? Rangers always need help taking care of wildlife and their habitats. Are you a history buff? Spending some time in a century-old fort or a historic homestead might be just the ticket. Like to spend time outdoors? Like to garden? Have carpenter skills? Want to meet new people every day? These and more opportunities are what await a volunteer in Florida's state parks.

Prefer not to be outside? Volunteers can also help by answering phones, writing press releases, designing educational materials, doing data entry, and filing.

Love camping? There are many resident volunteer and campground host positions available. These are "special" volunteers who aid the managers of a state park camping area. They answer campers' questions, help with maintenance and are available for late-night emergencies. In return, campground hosts get a free campsite and the satisfaction of performing an important and much-needed job.

For a volunteer's service the Florida Park Service offers park passes for the park where he or she volunteers, to be used by the volunteer and their family for recreational use. This is bestowed upon a volunteer upon contributing 100+ hours to the park. Upon contributing a total of 500+ hours to Florida State Parks, a volunteer is able to apply for an annual pass that allows them to be admitted into all Florida State Parks for a year. In addition to these thankful gestures, the Florida Park Service also annually hosts Volunteer Appreciation Day in each of the five districts across the state. These events celebrate our amazing volunteers with awards, activities, door prizes, food and fun.

Florida's park volunteers are integral to our mission and we couldn't do it without them!

Interested? Please contact:

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