

FRIENDS GROUPS

Local friends groups support the mission and activities at the majority of Wisconsin State Park System properties. If you are interested in becoming an official friend of a particular state park, trail, forest or recreation area, contact the property superintendent for information, fill out a volunteer application form, or find a friends group on our park webpages.

Friends
of Wisconsin State Parks



The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks was established in 1996 as a nonprofit membership organization with the primary goal of representing a network of statewide local friends groups and individual members on statewide park issues and serving as a liaison to the DNR.

The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks envisions a Wisconsin where the State Park properties are recognized, enjoyed, and restored for generations of grandchildren. We believe this is the legacy of our State and that natural resources are a part of our culture and heritage worth protecting.

Friends of Wisconsin State Parks, Inc.
P.O. Box 2271
Madison, WI 53701-2271
<http://fwsp.org>

FWSP Mission:

*To enhance, preserve, promote,
protect and restore the Wisconsin
State Parks, Trails, Southern Forests
and Recreation Areas.*

DROP IN WORK DAYS

Drop in and volunteer! Throughout the year several work days are planned at Wisconsin State Park System properties. Grab a few friends and join us in the great outdoors while you give a little time to help the parks!

Volunteer work days are posted to the Get Outdoors! Events Calendar. For more information, see dnr.wi.gov and search "Get Outdoors!"



For more information about volunteering in the Wisconsin State Park System, contact us at:

Department of Natural Resources Wisconsin State Park System

P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921
608-266-2181
608-267-2752 TTY
DNRWisconsinParks@Wisconsin.gov
<http://dnr.wi.gov> keyword "parks"

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audiotape, etc.) upon request. Please call 608-266-2181 for more information.



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VOLUNTEERING

WISCONSIN State Parks, Forests, Trails and Recreation Areas



Programs & Information

Campground Host, Nature Center Host,
Naturalist, Conservationist,
Adopt-A-Trail, Program Volunteer



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CAMPGROUND HOSTS

Campground hosts ensure campers enjoy their stay and set an example as a model camper, practicing good housekeeping and follow all park rules. Hosts live on a free campsite for a minimum of 30 days and volunteer at least three hours a day, five days per week. Campground hosts:

- Greet and assist campers with park information.
- Assist in daily campground operations and light maintenance.
- Provide upkeep of the campsites and facilities.
- Assist with campground programs.
- Provide expertise in areas of interest.



Campground hosts greet and assist campers and help with daily campground operations.

PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

Youth groups, scouts and environmental clubs often volunteer to plant trees, clean up litter and work on other group projects. Other organizations also participate in projects for community service, retreats and team building. Groups or individuals that are interested in volunteering as a short-term or project volunteer should contact the property supervisor to discuss available opportunities and make arrangements.

NATURE CENTER HOSTS

Nature Center hosts greet and assist visitors during park hours of operation and help with nature center programming, exhibit maintenance and upkeep. Most positions require a one month commitment. Some locations offer a free campsite for the duration of service. Nature center hosts:

- Answer questions about the environment, exhibits and the property.
- Provide literature and program schedules.
- Advertise park programs to visitors.
- Maintain the nature center grounds.
- Assist visitors with gift shop purchases.

NATURALIST

Volunteer naturalists assist DNR staff with cultural and natural history programs, guided hikes and special events. They may also lead programs, hikes, and events when appropriate. Volunteer naturalists:

- Assist park staff in educational programming.
- Present park interpretive and educational programs.
- Lead school group programs and conduct public workshops and classes.
- Conduct nature events in the park.
- Answer questions about the environment, exhibits and the property.

CONSERVATIONIST

Volunteer conservationists assist DNR staff in several areas, such as building and grounds maintenance, plant surveys and monitoring wildlife populations. Volunteer conservationists:

- Assist with the upkeep of buildings, lawns, campgrounds, picnic areas and beaches.
- Help build accessible cabins, picnic shelters and other facilities.
- Assist in restoring prairies, improving wildlife habitat, and picking up litter.
- Maintain trails, signs, shelters, observation platforms and boardwalks.

VISITOR SERVICES

Visitor Services volunteers greet visitors and provide information and explain park rules and hand out brochures, maps, program schedules and other literature. Visitor services volunteers:

- Assist park visitors with vehicle admission stickers, campsite registrations and state trail passes.
- Provide visitors with information about property facilities and the local area.
- Help with special events and marketing programs.
- Answer questions pertaining to the property.
- Assist visitors with gift shop purchases.



Volunteers paint a firewood shed.

ADOPT-A-TRAIL

Individuals or groups can volunteer to sponsor and care for a section of trail. Groups keep a trail clear of litter and debris and report any hazardous or large objects obstructing the trail to the property supervisor. A sponsorship fee covers trail adoption signage. Adopt-a-Trail sponsors:

- Participate in a minimum of 3 activity days per year.
- Participate in the program for a minimum of 2 years.
- Adopt a minimum of two miles of linear railroad grade trail (Other trail sponsorships will be determined based on trail length).

