



**CONSERVATION
LEGACY**



Community Volunteer Ambassador – Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park

Location: Fredericksburg, VA

Position Details:

Stewards Individual Placements provides individuals with service and career opportunities to strengthen communities and preserve our natural resources. The Community Volunteer Ambassador (CVA) Program combines the strength of a national leader in conservation service with the National Park Service to train a diverse group of emerging leaders to assist park units in building lasting connections to local communities.

The CVA will work with the Supervisory Park Ranger in designing a new volunteer program that better serves the evolving needs of the park. FRSP is committed to engaging with modern scholarship about the Civil War and helping visitors engage with the many legacies wrought by the war. This necessarily means that we must implement a modern training program that ensures that volunteers are properly equipped to assist the Interpretive Branch in this effort. The CVA will also work with the Supervisory Park Ranger to collect useful data about the park's surrounding community to help us better reach under-served populations.

Site Description:

Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park encompasses four major Civil War battlefields: Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House. The Park also includes multiple historic sites and structures including three slave plantations and a historic church. Volunteers with the Interpretive Branch assist in staffing our visitor contact centers and provide information about the park to visitors. They provide historical information that aligns with modern scholarship about the Civil War to help meet the park's Long Range Interpretive Plan. In some cases, volunteers also assist with historical research that helps expand the thematic breadth of the park's interpretation.

Position Responsibilities:

- Attend training with the Interpretive Branch to understand operations and the park story/history
- Participate in other related training and career development opportunities
- Occasionally provide visitor services support to get a sense of what day-to-day operations are like
- Assist the Supervisory Park Ranger in planning and implementing a new recruitment and monitoring program for Interpretive Volunteers
- Assist the Supervisory Park Ranger and other staff in hosting listening sessions with the community to understand park uses and community needs
- If desired by the CVA, present public interpretive programs
- Attended regularly-occurring staff meetings with the Interpretive Branch
- Work collaboratively with the Supervisory Park Ranger and other Interpretive Rangers to design a volunteer training program and implement/present first iteration of said program
- Work with the Interpretive, Maintenance, and Resource Branches to identify other potential volunteer opportunities for local youth



CVA Minimum Requirements:

- Participate in the CVA National Early Service Training in fall/winter 2022/2023
- Be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident
- Be 18-30 years old at time of service (veterans up to 35 years old)
- High school diploma or GED
- An interest in history, especially the Civil War, is a bonus but not required. Applicants will be required to learn about the Civil War and speak about it publicly, including discussing potentially difficult issues such as the legacies of slavery and Confederate monuments.
- Willingness to work collaboratively and dialog with a team
- Ability to work independently on pre-determined projects
- Willingness to engage with the public on sometimes controversial issues (with appropriate training provided by the NPS)
- Ability to think creatively and willingness to think critically about systems to improve them
- Submit proof of a Driver's License and undergo a Federal Background Check, upon selection
- US Citizen, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien of the United States

Preferred Qualifications:

- Applicants local to the Fredericksburg area are preferred. All applicants will be considered.
- Previous experience engaging with the public is preferred but not required.
- Good verbal and written communication skills

Additional Information:

FRSP is centrally located in Virginia, between Washington, D.C. and Richmond. The area has amenities including shopping and restaurants and is an easy drive to Shenandoah National Park or Virginia Beach.

FRSP is a unique battlefield park because the nature of the site allows us to interpret a wide breadth of experiences from the war. We strive to incorporate as many voices as possible into our interpretation, including voices of enslaved people and civilians. We also seek to address the causes of the Civil War as well as its consequences - ensuring that visitors engage with its many conflicted legacies.

Housing is available within the park, however the CVA will need to be able to drive between their quarters and their duty station on busy roads. Applicants with a car and driver's license are preferred but exceptions can be considered.

Benefits:

- CVA will receive a weekly stipend of **\$500** (additional \$65/week, if housing is not provided)
- Housing available
- Limited health care/childcare benefits
- The position is eligible for an AmeriCorps Education Award \$6,345.00 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of the program
- Professional development funds
- Networking opportunities within the National Park Service and partnering organizations
- Public Land Corps Hiring Authority



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How to Apply

The CVA position will start on **Monday, September 12th, 2022**, and run for 50 weeks until Friday, August 25th 2023. Applicants will need to apply here: [CVA Member Application 2022-2023 \(September Cohort\) \(jotform.com\)](#) and attach a cover.

Please ensure your cover letter addresses the specific requirements and position details for this park.

You may submit one application for multiple positions by selecting all sites and attaching the necessary cover letters.

Applications Deadline

Please submit your application by Friday, July 15th to ensure full consideration.

For Application Questions:

Please contact Geoff Elliot, Program Director at gelliot@conservationlegacy.org

Stewards Individual Placements Program does not and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.