



Community Volunteer Ambassador – Joshua Tree National Park

Location: Twentynine Palms, CA

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 at Joshua Tree National Park will support parkwide volunteer program management, volunteer engagement, community outreach, and specific volunteer team operations. They will be involved in all volunteer opportunities offered by the park including projects and positions in natural resources, cultural resources, protection, fees, interpretation, trails, roads, and campgrounds.

The CVA will work 1-2 days a week on projects and tasks that apply to the parkwide volunteer program and the other 3-4 days will be spent working directly with a branch-specific volunteer program. These assignments will rotate each 2-3 months between specific volunteer project operations, which provides the opportunity to intensely embed in a program and make a significant impact. The CVA will likely work closely with preventative search and rescue (PSAR), vegetation monitoring, fee operations, and interpretive operations. They will have cross-training opportunities with other NPS sites in the summer which may last a few days to a few weeks, depending on the site's needs and CVA's interest.

The CVA will work at the office with their supervisor and project managers, in the field with volunteers, and in the community with partners. Though the work with other branches will be collaborative with a variety of staff, partners, volunteers, and interns; CVA will be assigned to a single project lead for their time with each branch and have a single primary supervisor throughout the internship.

Site Description:

Joshua Tree National Park was protected for its diversity of plants and animals, first as a National Monument in 1936 and then as a National Park in 1994. However, humans have occupied this area for at least 5,000 years. The area's traditionally associated communities include the Serrano, the Chemehuevi, the Cahuilla, and the Mojave. The park's nearly 800,000 acres protect the unique assembly of natural resources brought together by the junction of three of California's ecosystems: the Colorado Desert, Mojave Desert, and Little San Bernardino Mountains.

The park's volunteers help protect these resources and support our visitors. Our program includes volunteers that support operations in the interpretation, maintenance, resources, and protection divisions. The program reports about 30,000 hours annually. The program has approximately 100 recurring volunteers, 18 recurring volunteer positions, and about 90 event volunteers. Most of the park's volunteerism is position-based, with volunteers serving in roles like preventative search and rescue, vegetation monitoring, trail brushing, and visitor services.

Position Responsibilities:

- Respond to volunteer inquiries
- Collect and enter volunteer data including service agreements, timesheets, and inquiries
- Onboard new volunteers



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- Lead volunteer policy orientations for volunteers and park staff
- Develop, participate in, and occasionally lead volunteer field projects
- Work with project leads to identify park needs that can be met by volunteers and help develop those programs and/or positions
- Create new or leverage existing community partnerships through outreach
- Facilitate volunteer appreciation and engagement, including annual volunteer appreciation event and volunteer newsletter
- Create written (both physical and digital) resources for volunteers and volunteer supervisors
- Support overall volunteer program operations

CVA Leader 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)
- In possession of or in active pursuit of a Bachelor's degree
- Current driver's license, safe driving record, and reliable personal vehicle
- Honest and dependable
- Organized and detail-oriented
- Enjoys teamwork and collaboration
- Values diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Comfortable asking questions when clarification is needed, rather than guessing
- 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:

- Local applicants from the Morongo Basin or Coachella Valley
- Professional writing and communication skills
- Experience in community outreach and/or customer service is preferred
- Creative thinker
- Public speaking experience

Additional Information:

- Position requires a current driver's license, safe driving record, and reliable personal vehicle
- 1-2 days of weekend work (Fri, Sat, Sun) are required but days are negotiable
- Park housing is 60 minutes from main duty station, so local applicants preferred
- Cross-training opportunities with other NPS sites in the summer
- May have some opportunities to telework
- The CVA will gain diverse experience with all aspects of NPS operations

Benefits:

- CVA will receive a weekly stipend of **\$500** (additional \$65/week, if housing is not provided)
- 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.