

Online Training News

Sign up for National Safety Council First Aid/CPR classes. All programs will be from 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at Sharon Woods in the Employee Training Center. Trainings are free and open to all Great Parks Volunteers and employees. Certification cards will be mailed to you approximately four weeks after you complete the training. If you are interested in getting your First Aid/CPR certification, please register on-line at <https://volunteers-greatparks.bridgeapp.com/login>.

Wed 5/10/2017

Wed 6/14/2017

Wed 7/12/2017

Wed 8/9/2017

Wed 9/13/2017

Wed 10/11/2017

Wed 11/15/2017

Tue 11/21/2017

Wed 12/13/2017

Tue 12/19/2017

Please record these training hours under **Training First Aid CPR [RISK MANAGEMENT/All Locations]**.

Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.

If you are having difficulty completing any on-line training, including new volunteer orientation modules or the volunteer handbook module, contact Volunteer Services Intern Joe Von Allmen at 513-245-7471 or at jvonallmen@greatparks.org. Joe will be leaving us soon, so after April 24, please contact Kris or Niki with your questions at 513-521-7275 or send an email to volunteer@greatparks.org.

30th Annual Winton Woods Cleanup

Did you know Winton Lake is designed to control flooding across the region? That's a good thing. Unfortunately, because of the way it is designed, during large rain events litter as far away as Northgate Mall can make its way into Winton Woods. It's a huge task keeping the lake clean, that's why we want to thank everyone that came out on April 8 for the 30th Annual Winton Woods Cleanup. Approximately 150 volunteers picked up 2.16 tons of trash, 7 tires and 91 bags of recyclables in just a few short hours. The strangest item found this year was probably a surfboard!



The Winton Woods Cleanup is a partnership between Great Parks of Hamilton County and the City of Forest Park Environmental Awareness. Each year the two agencies work together to organize the project, staff the event, recruit volunteers, solicit food and secure prizes for things like the dirtiest volunteer and largest group. The Great Parks Foundation even joined in, bringing yummy Buskin cookies to help celebrate the 30th year of this event.



Many Great Parks Volunteers, families, individuals, corporate and community organizations come out each year to help. This year the biggest groups came from Ohio Geocachers (19), Gorman Farm 4-H Club (14), Winton Woods High School National Honor Society (14), Girl Scout Troop 48233 (10), Girl Scout Troop 48223 (10) and Cub Scout Troop 850 (9).

Great Parks volunteers were an awesome force this year as well. Thanks to everyone that came out to attack the trash, and also these volunteers that helped with event setup, registration, grilling burgers and serving lunch.

Emily Batta
Larry McClean
Ray Haarman
Marianne & Dale Hoffmann
Mary Kay & Paul Luckey
Judy Middendorf
Kathy Raible
Barb & Cliff Zepf



We couldn't do it without you. Thanks so much for your support!

THIS MONTH'S BLOG

[Plight of the Bumblebee](#)

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Volunteer Spotlight



Emily Batta

What is your favorite volunteer activity? I really enjoy helping with the cleanups. I get to roam the woods, rivers and lakes. When I look back, I can see the difference I've made by clearing the trash and debris. I've also met many wonderful people who make the experience even more enjoyable.

What's your favorite outdoor activity? My favorite outdoor activity is hiking. I've hiked the Maryland section of the Appalachian Trail and a couple fourteeners, and of course many of the Great Parks trails. I'm disappointed to say that I have not hiked every Great Parks trail, but I have made it my goal to do so this year!

What is your favorite Great Park and why? I really like Shawnee Lookout. The views are amazing and the trails are great. Miami Whitewater Forest has a special place in my heart because my parents took me there a lot when I was younger and I still go there often.

What did you want to be growing up? I wanted to be a veterinarian when I was a kid. I still really like animals and have two cats of my own, but being a vet didn't call to me later on when I began to think of a degree and a career.

What are three things on your bucket list? 1. Hike the Inca Trail or at least explore Machu Picchu. 2. See the Northern Lights. 3. Hike all of the Great Parks' trails.

Get Involved

Try something new! Please review the list of programs below. If you are able to assist with the activity, phone or email the event supervisor to volunteer. Don't forget to record your service hours in VIC or on a paper time sheet, using the assignment category found highlighted at the end of each opportunity.

FARBACH WERNER

Sat 4/29, 1 p.m.:
April Showers Brought Warblers & Wildflowers

Park guests will walk the Pin Oak Trail during Painted Pots Day to see and learn about the many kinds of spring wildflowers. This just happens to be the weekend that tiny migratory species of warblers find the park as well! One or two volunteers are needed to lead the wildflower and bird hike. If you have a strong knowledge of wildflowers or birds and would like to volunteer, contact Suzanne Roth at sroth@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\Farbach Werner Nature Preserve]**.

Fri 5/26–Tue 5/30, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.:
Frog Week

We'll be kicking off our summer series of nature weeks with Frog Week! Park guests will learn about some of Ohio's favorite frogs and toads. There will be live animals, activities and a craft for kids. Volunteers are needed to greet guests and help children make the craft. To volunteer, contact Suzanne Roth at sroth@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\Farbach Werner]**.

FERNBANK

Sat 5/13, 9 a.m. - noon:
Great Parks' Greenup

Help us plant the seeds to turn a mowed area into a budding pollinator meadow and remove invasive species so future native plants can thrive. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to take home a packet of native seeds and learn how to create a mason bee house to enhance their own pollinator haven! We'll be meeting at the Lee Picnic Shelter. You may register on-line for this event at greatparks.org/volunteer or contact Niki

Marengo at nmarengo@greatparks.org or phone Niki at 513 245-7471. Ages 14 and up. **Great Parks Greenup 2017 [OPERATIONS\Fernbank]**.

Sat 6/17, 9 a.m.–noon:
Ohio River Sweep

Get your boots on and head to the Ohio River for one of the largest clean ups in the region! Join Great Parks, ORSANCO and hundreds of other volunteers in an effort to keep our waters and shores clean. We'll be meeting at the Lee Picnic Shelter. You may register on-line at greatparks.org/volunteer or contact Niki Marengo at nmarengo@greatparks.org or call 513-245-7471. **Ohio River Sweep 2017 [OPERATIONS\Fernbank]**.

MITCHELL MEMORIAL FOREST

Sat 6/3, 9 a.m.–noon:
National Trails Day With REI

Come on out and get your hands dirty on National Trails Day. Volunteers will learn about trail maintenance and invasive plant removal by participating in a hands-on trail project sponsored by REI. When finished, try out some of the fun activities at Adventure Fest. We'll be meeting at the Wood Duck Trail. Register on-line at greatparks.org/volunteer or you may contact Niki Marengo at nmarengo@greatparks.org or phone 513-245-7471. Ages 14 and up. **National Trails Day 2017 [NATURAL RESOURCES\Mitchell Memorial Forest]**.

SHARON WOODS

Tues-Fri 6/20-6/23, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.:
Wild Explorers! Day Camp

Do you enjoy nature education and working with youth? Then how about becoming a Great Parks Day Camp Volunteer? At the Wild Explorers Day Camp, kids ages 6-11 years old will explore forests, creeks, meadows and more while discovering the amazing creatures that call Sharon Woods home. Along the way they'll meet live animals,

make cool crafts and find out just what it takes to walk on the wild side! Volunteers will assist with the groups and activities. If you would like to help with day camp but are not available June 20-23, other opportunities are available. For more information or to volunteer, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-563-4513. For ages 14 and up. **Day Camps [NATURALISTS/Sharon Woods]**.



WINTON WOODS

Ongoing:

Gardener/Farmer Wannabes

Park's Farm has a unique orchard and vegetable, herb and flower gardens used for educational programs and public display. Lots of volunteers are needed to help maintain and interpret the gardens spring through fall. Flexible scheduling is available. Gardening experience is not necessary. If you have a green thumb (or are willing to obtain one) and want to help others have fun in the garden, contact Luke Ogonek at logonek@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-3276, ext. 100 For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Park's Farm Gardening [PARKY'S FARM\Winton Woods]**.

Mon 3/13–Sat 5/27,
Mon 6:15–7:15 p.m.,
Wed 6:15–7:15 p.m.,
Sat 10:15–11:15 a.m.:

Special Riders Program

Volunteers are needed to lead or walk beside horses ridden by Special Rider Students. Training is provided at the Riding Center. For more information or to volunteer, contact Margie Rennie at mrennie1@icloud.com or phone 513-931-3057. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **WWRC All Activities [RIDING CENTER\Winton Woods]**.

Sat 4/29, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.:

Healthy Kids Day

Park guests will get moving at Healthy Kids Day with fitness class demos, scavenger hunts, an inflatable bounce house, wagon rides and more. The YMCA of Greater Cincinnati will be joining in on the fun. Volunteers will drive wagon rides, assist in the playbarn, greet guests, pass out park literature and assist with animal presentations. Lots of volunteers are needed! If you would like to help, contact Luke Ogonek at logonek@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-3276, ext. 100. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Park's Farm Healthy Kids Day [PARKY'S FARM\Winton Woods]**.

Wed 5/3, 11 a.m.:

Little Tykes

Youth ages 3–6 and their parents will take part in an exciting nature-themed scavenger hunt. Kids will jump, wiggle and fly their way around the course! Volunteers are needed to greet guests and help with activities. If you would like to volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 243. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\Winton Woods]**.



Fri 5/5–5/26, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.:

Pioneer Pastimes

Park's Farm will spring into farm life of the olden days! Children pre-K through second grade will have lots of fun watching the animals get haircuts and become a farm hand through everyday pioneer activities. They'll be playing old-time games, taking wagon rides to the Pioneer Campsite, working in the garden and having fun in Park's Playbarn. Lots of volunteers are needed to greet guests, drive wagon rides and assist in the playbarn. Volunteers will also help

with the animals, garden chores and historical based programs. If you enjoy working with young kids and would like to volunteer, contact Luke Ogonek at logonek@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-3276, ext. 100. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Park's Farm Healthy Kids Day [PARKY'S FARM\Winton Woods]**.

Sun 5/14, 10 a.m., noon & 2 p.m.:

Mother's Day Brunch in the Park

Families will be celebrating Mother's Day at the Mill Race Banquet Center with an all-you-can-eat buffet. Volunteers are needed to help make this event extra special by lending a hand rolling silverware, refilling coffee, cleaning up and resetting the room after each seating. If interested in helping with this special Mother's Day event, contact Liz Keer at keer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 285. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Banquet Center [RECREATION\Winton Woods]**.

Sun 5/21, 2 p.m.:

Paul Farm Hike

Here is your chance to go off-trail and visit land that was once owned by the Paul family. Participants will catch a glimpse of spring's early wildflowers and enjoy tales of the local history. Volunteers are needed to assist with the hikes, to make sure no one gets left behind, so you'll need to be able to tackle uneven terrain. Contact Susan Sumner at ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 243. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\Winton Woods]**.

Sun 5/28, 2–4 p.m.:

Memorial Day Celebration

Park guests will celebrate the beginning of summer at the Winton Centre! This festive open house includes activities sure to please all outdoor lovers. It will showcase an artist's corner and a few unique surprises of the live animal variety. Several volunteers are needed to greet guests and help with activities. For more information or to volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 243. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\Winton Woods]**.

Thank You Volunteers!

It's easy to go to the range and hit a bucket of balls, but it's not always that easy to pick them up. This winter we had a perfect storm of mild temperatures and saturating rains. This caused a large number of range balls to "hide" underground, reducing our available golf ball inventory in the spring. This creates a challenge for golf operations as we head into the busy golf season. Fortunately, we had a dedicated group of volunteers and paid staff members willing to brave the soggy conditions to get those golf balls out of the ground. This crew spent several hours recovering an estimated 23,000 range balls between two courses, Meadow Links & Golf Academy and Miami Whitewater Forest. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped us with this important project. ~ Matt Starr, PGA Professional, Meadow Links & Golf Academy and Mike Uffman, PGA Professional, Miami Whitewater Forest.



Gary Bougraf	Mike Mulcahy
Gail & Bill Curtis	Louise Schurfranz
Phyllis & Jim Doerger	Carl Seng
Mike Fehring	Kay Serio
Gayle Kowzan	Jean Snyder
Roger Loosen	Dale Toennisson
Paul Luckey	Cliff Zepf
Craig Montgomery	

Marketing Communication Services would like to recognize Volunteer Bill Hart for all of the amazing photography he takes throughout Great Parks. Since becoming a volunteer in September 2015, Bill has been traveling to different parks capturing everything from sunrises and wildflowers to nature programs and volunteers in action. The images he has provided have been instrumental in showing what Great Parks is all about. His photos have been seen by thousands of people throughout the county on the cover of Great Parks' event guides and the annual report, on billboards and in other advertising. We are so very grateful for his talent and willingness to go the extra mile for the park district. Thank you so very much, Bill! ~ Kimberly, Kim, Becky & Jen



Volunteer Meeting Schedule

Volunteer meetings are a great way to meet new people, learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities, talk with Great Parks' team members and learn something interesting from an exciting lineup of guest speakers. Meetings take place at 7 p.m. and are held in the Winton Centre Auditorium unless otherwise noted. Coffee and tea are provided. Baked goods to share are always welcome!

May 16, 2017—Ron Wilson, better known as the "Yard Boy", will join us once again to share his expertise on trees, shrubs, bugs and whatever is new in the world of gardening. Ron, Marketing Director for Natorp's and popular Saturday morning radio personality, will bring the fun. You bring the questions!

July 18, 2017—Located in Lunken Airport's historic Art Deco terminal, the Cincinnati Aviation Heritage Society collects, restores and displays aviation artifacts relating to Ohio and the Cincinnati Tri-State. Come learn about Cincinnati's rich aviation history at this "don't miss" meeting.

When recording your hours in VIC for volunteer meetings, log them under **VIP Meeting [Volunteer Services\Winton Woods]**. Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.

Save the Date!

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
Friday, July 21, 2017



Bert Hyde, Penny Prass & Bill Holtgreffe enjoying the 2013 Recognition Event, also held at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden.

We'll be celebrating outstanding volunteer service and 2017 years of service milestones. Invitations will be mailed in June to award recipients and volunteers that contributed 40 hours of service or more in 2016. See you there!