

Online Training News

Many of you might remember receiving an email several weeks ago from Great Parks Learning. This is part of a new online learning system that Great Parks is working with called Bridge. The Bridge Learning Management System is a wonderful new tool for implementing on-line training classes as well as registration for in-person courses. Bridge is designed to make training more accessible to volunteers and employees, stretch Great Parks' resources and allow for better tracking and documentation of training.

The email you received earlier was sent prematurely,

so we are calling for a do-over! Several volunteer training modules are now being loaded into the system and will

be ready for you soon. You will be receiving more information via email and/or U.S. mail about these trainings including a series of April "how-to" workshops. The workshops are being organized by Joe Von Allmen and will be perfect for those of you that do not have an email address or are not comfortable using the new system. Computers will be available for hands on learning as Joe walks you step-by-step through the system and an actual training. Stay tuned for workshop and Bridge information coming to you soon.

The expert in anything was once a beginner.

Welcome Aboard to New Intern Joe Von Allmen

Hello everyone! I will be working with Great Parks for the next several weeks as the new Volunteer Services Intern. I'm so excited to be here and meet all of you. One of the main projects I'll be working on is tackling the new online training system and making it more accessible to you.

I have been involved in volunteer service since I was a young boy. After high school I decided to further my experience in service work by joining the Americorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC). Through Americorps NCCC, I was able to travel all over the west coast working with various non-profit organizations, gaining real-world experience and knowledge. I've worked in the deserts of southeast Utah, the Los Angeles public school system and everywhere in between. This experience furthered the depth of appreciation I have for volunteer service. When I graduated from the program it was clear to me that I wanted to work for organizations that allowed me to give back to my community. I've also had the incredible experience of working at the Cincinnati Nature Center (CNC) as an Environmental Interpretation Intern and camp counselor for two summers. Being at CNC was so incredible because I had the privilege of working alongside so many experts in the field of environmental education and interpretation. While I spent most of my days out on the trails with school groups, I also gained experience working with volunteers and making connections with the community through different events. My time spent at CNC will always have a special place in my heart because it was full of so many life lessons and helped shape who I am today.

In addition to interning with Great Parks, I work part time at a recreation center facilitating before and after school programs. I'm currently a senior at Northern Kentucky University studying Organizational Leadership. I enjoy spending my free time outdoors or in the kitchen. I love to hike, explore and make delicious food for myself and others.

I feel so privileged to be able to work for Great Parks of Hamilton County. My favorite parks are Miami Whitewater Forest and Fernbank. I remember spending many childhood summer days at Miami Whitewater on the playground, sprayground and walking the trails. As a native west-sider, I've spent plenty of time skipping rocks on the Ohio River and playing ultimate frisbee with friends at Fernbank. Although my time here is limited, I intend to take full advantage of it and very much look forward to working with all of you!



Volunteer Services Intern Joe Von Allmen with furry friend Shelby.

THIS MONTH'S BLOG

[Woodcock Rescue & Release](#)
Read more at
blog/greatparks.org

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Volunteer Spotlight



Alfonza "Al" Moore

How long have you volunteered with Great Parks? Twelve years!

What is your favorite volunteer activity? I enjoy working in the woodshop at Central Operations in Winton Woods and building all types of carpentry projects. I also like working at Parky's Farm as the hayride driver.

What's your favorite activity outside of volunteering? You can find me playing on the golf course (my favorite park is Sharon Woods because of the great golf course), riding along in my 1929 Ford or exercising at the YMCA.

Something that you might be surprised to know about me? I played football at Miami University in Oxford. I graduated in the class of 1968.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be? Traveling to Europe is on my bucket list. I would love to go to Italy and see the old world.

What did you want to be when you were growing up? I wanted to be a pro-baseball player. I grew up in Saylor Park where I often played pickup games with Pete Rose.

What is your specialty dish? Soul Food. Collard greens, BBQ Ribs, baked beans and candied yams. I am a very good cook!

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, Noon–3 p.m.:

Birds, Blooms & Painted Pots Day

Celebrate the arrival of migratory birds and spring wildflowers! Families can pick a painted pot from our trees and plant a flower in it, go on a bird or wildflower hike, play games and more. Volunteers will help guests plant their flowers, assist with crafts, and play games. If you would like 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 Nature Preserve]**.

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 need 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 a craft. To volunteer, contact Suzanne Roth sroth@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\Farbach Werner]**.

SHARON WOODS

Ongoing:

Crayon Recycling

The Sharon Woods Naturalist staff collects old crayons to recycle into new crayons to give away as prizes. Volunteers that are willing to peel crayons, separate crayons by color and melt/mold crayons are needed. You can choose one task or all three! This can be done in the comfort of your own home or during open hours at the Sharon Centre. All materials will be provided. Sound like fun? Then contact Julie Robinson a jrobinson@greatparks.org or phone 513-563-4513. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\Sharon Woods]**.

WINTON WOODS

Ongoing:

Gardener/Farmer Wannabe's

Parky's Farm has unique orchard, 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 with flexible scheduling 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. **Parky'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].**

Wed 4/5, 11 a.m.:

Little Tykes

You won't want to miss our traditional Earth Day celebration. Engaging, earth-friendly activities will help 3–6 year olds and their parents embrace nature in a big way. For ages 3–6 accompanied by an adult. Volunteers are needed to help program participants with activities. If you enjoy working with children and crafts and 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].**

Sat 4/8 & Sun 4/9, 10:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 1 p.m. & 1:45 p.m.:

Easter Spectacular

Easter Spectacular at Parky's Farm is for kids of all ages and includes lunch, a wagon ride to an Easter egg hunt with a surprise for the kids, a photo with the Easter Bunny, live entertainment and more! Volunteers are needed to help with the moon bounce, obstacle course, egg hunt, hayride and more! If you like working with kids and enjoy busy special events, contact Liz Keer at lkeer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 285. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Easter Spectacular [RECREATION\Winton Woods].**

Sun 4/16, 10 a.m., noon & 2 p.m.:

Easter Brunch in the Park

Families will be hopping on over to the Mill Race Banquet Center for Easter Brunch! They'll be celebrating the holiday with the Easter Bunny and an all-you-can-eat buffet. Volunteers are needed to help roll silverware, refill coffee, cleanup and reset the room after

individual brunch seatings. If interested in this holiday favorite, contact Liz Keer at lkeer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 285. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Banquet Center [RECREATION\Winton Woods].**

Wed 4/19, 11 a.m.:

Homeschool Science (Central): Earth Day Celebration

Home-schooled students ages 5–12 and parents are invited to explore interactive learning stations, take part in lessons and enjoy a hike. Volunteers are needed to help with activities. Sound like fun? Then contact Susan Sumner ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 243. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\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. **Parky'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 park 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

Parky'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 becoming 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 Parky'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. **Parky's Farm Healthy Kids Day [PARKY'S FARM\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! You'll need to be able to tackle uneven terrain for this hike. 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].**

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 and 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].**

Day Camps at Sharon Woods

Do you enjoy nature education and working with youth? Then how about becoming a Great Parks Day Camp Volunteer at Sharon Woods? At day camp, children ages 2-17 will explore everything nature. Check out the Wild Explorers Day Camp below and if you can help, please contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-563-4513.



- Wild Explorers! Day Camp: Tues-Fri, June 20-23, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- This camp for ages 6-11 year olds will explore forests, creeks, meadows and more as campers discover 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 are needed to assist with the groups and help with day camp activities.
- If you would like to help with day camps but are not available June 20-23, other opportunities are available. Contact Stephanie for more info at the email address or phone number listed above.
- Teen and adult volunteer opportunities are available.

Please record your hours for this service under **Day Camps [NATURALISTS/Sharon Woods]**.

First Aid CPR Training

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 4/12/17	Wed 10/11/17
Wed 5/10/17	Wed 11/15/17
Wed 6/14/17	Tue 11/21/17
Wed 7/12/17	Wed 12/13/17
Wed 8/9/17	Tue 12/19/17
Wed 9/13/17	

If you register for this training and can no longer attend, you can cancel or reschedule your training by logging into your Bridge account using the link above.

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.

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



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!

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