

Online Training

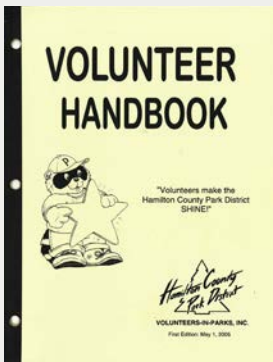
Wow! Thank you to everyone that completed the new on-line training modules. For those of you that have been with us for a while, that includes the new volunteer handbook training. Brand new volunteers must complete the handbook training plus two additional on-line modules. Currently, we have 420 completed learners putting us above the 50% mark. Fantastic work everyone.

For those of you waiting on replies to your questions about on-line training, we have not forgotten about you.

Niki and I are responding as quickly

as we can. However, without Joe lending a helping hand, it is taking a bit longer than we would like. Thank you for your patience. Please be aware that more in-person trainings will be scheduled throughout the summer so watch for those training dates to be coming your way soon.

Finally, Niki and I want to give a great big shout out to the following volunteers that helped Joe with in-person trainings last month: Marvin Appel, Bill Curtis, Phyllis Doerger, Chris Terrell and Steve Whyne. We couldn't have gotten so many volunteers through the training without their assistance. Thank you for your time, talent and patience. Great work everyone.



Thank you to the Woodland Mound volunteer that shared this handbook with us, dated 2005.

Best of luck, Joe

Kris Roselle, Volunteer Services Manager

Volunteer Services Intern Joe Von Allmen's last day was Friday, April 29. Although Joe was only with us for ten short weeks, he accomplished a lot. He learned how to operate Bridge, our new on-line training platform, and he organized and conducted sixteen in-person handbook trainings. A tremendous amount of work went into the in-person trainings including the creation of a Power Point presentation, recruitment of volunteers to assist with the trainings and reserving all the rooms and equipment. Joe also responded to countless phone calls, emails and questions about Bridge. If that's not enough, he also helped with two Saturday community volunteer events, two new volunteer orientations and he organized and managed a project for the Winton Woods Operations Department and the Great Parks Planning Division, all while attending school and working two other part-time jobs.

When asked what his favorite part about interning at Great Parks was, Joe quickly answered "Getting to engage with all of the friendly staff and volunteers. From the moment I started, Kris and Niki were incredibly welcoming and gave me countless opportunities to learn more about Great Parks as an organization. In my short time here I was able to attend meetings, help Kris with volunteer orientations and work with Niki cleaning



Volunteer Services Intern Joe Von Allmen with his furry and faithful friend Shelby.

up a park on the west-side of Cincinnati. I was also able to meet countless Great Parks Volunteers, be it through attending orientations, working alongside them on special projects or talking with them at one of the Bridge trainings. Every volunteer I met was appreciative and supportive. They always had positive things to say about Great Parks because the staff here does such a wonderful job making sure that all volunteer needs are met and voices are heard. I'm so appreciative for this opportunity to work at Great Parks and meet such a wonderful community of staff and volunteers."




Joe is on to other things now - working part-time at Butler County MetroParks and Cincinnati Parks. He will be greatly missed. We wish him nothing but the best in all his future endeavors.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

THIS MONTH'S BLOG

Don't Worry Baby
Read more at
blog/greatparks.org

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Volunteer Spotlight



Jeffrey Valis

How long have you been a great Parks Volunteer? Three years.

What is your favorite volunteer activity? I really like barn aiding at Parky's Farm.

When you're not at Great Parks, where can we find you? The bowling alley.

What's your favorite outdoor activity? Sitting on a bench or overlooking a lake, somewhere peaceful.

Can you tell us something about yourself that might surprise us? I play upright bass in the orchestra.

What is your favorite Great Park and why? Winton Woods. I think it's peaceful.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be? Bora Bora

What do you want to be when you grow up? A marine.

What is your life motto? Respect is earned, not given.

What was the best concert you have ever seen? Luke Bryan.

If you were an animal, what would you be? A wolf.

Are you a regular customer at any places around town? Bowling is my hobby so Colerain Bowl.

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

Mon, Wed and Fri, 3/17–11/6, 8:30 a.m.:

Walk Club Host

Walk Club Members, ages 50 and older, walk for fitness at five different park locations. Walk Club Hosts are needed at Farbach-Werner to greet participants, walk with the group and report attendance. The trail at this location is .6 miles long and can be walked a few times. Hosts are needed for one, two or all three days each week. Contact Jen Hilbert at jhilbert@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-2345. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Walk Club Host [ADVENTURE OUTPOST\All Locations]**

Tue 6/6–Sun 6/11, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.:

Snake Week

Guests will see and learn about several of Ohio's native snakes on exhibit this week. Volunteers will help children with games, crafts or interact with guests as they view the live animals on display. Contact Suzanne Roth at sroth@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALISTS\Farbach Werner Nature Preserve]**

Tue 6/13–Sun 6/18, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.:

Turtle Week

Join us for this exhibit featuring turtles and totally turtle activities. Volunteers can help children with games, crafts or interact with guests as they view the live animals on display. Contact Suzanne Roth at sroth@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALISTS\Farbach Werner Nature Preserve]**

Tue 6/20–Sun 6/25, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.:

Owls of Ohio Week

See live Ohio owls at this popular annual exhibit. Volunteers can help children with games, crafts or interact with guests as they view the live animals on display and dissect owl pellets. Contact

Suzanne Roth at sroth@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALISTS\Farbach Werner Nature Preserve]**

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 volunteers in an effort to keep our waters and shores clean. Bring work clothes. Register on-line at greatparks.org/volunteer or contact Niki Marengo at nmarengo@greatparks.org or phone Niki at 513-245-7471. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Ohio River Sweep 2017 [OPERATIONS\Fernbank]**

GLENWOOD GARDENS

Thursday 6/1, 9 a.m.–noon & Noon–3 p.m.:

Free Park Entry

Join us in helping our visitors have a great experience! Volunteers are needed to help with activities and interacting with the public. There are two shifts to choose from. Contact Doug Stevenson at [dstevenson@greatparks.org](mailto:d Stevenson@greatparks.org) or phone 513-771-8733, ext. 110. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\Glenwood Gardens]**

Sun 6/11, Noon–5 p.m.:

Trillium Art & Music Fair

Pick up a fantastic work of local art while enjoying food, drinks and live music. More than 40 artist and craftspeople will showcase their talents and work, along with a day full of music. Volunteers will help with vendor set up and teardown, Great Parks information booth and event activities at various times. Contact Liz Keer at lkeer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 285. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Art Shows [RECREATIONS\Glenwood Gardens]**

LAKE ISABELLA

Fri 6/23, 3 p.m.–Sat 6/24, 10 a.m.:

Great Parks' Backyard Campout

Join us for a night under the stars! Families can camp in the park and connect with nature. Family-friendly activities will kick off Friday night. Volunteers will help direct guests to parking and campsites and help with the moon bounces, obstacle course, fire pits and other campout activities. Contact Liz Keer at lkeer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 285. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Great Parks Backyard Campout [RECREATION\Lake Isabella]**

MIAMI WHITEWATER FOREST

Sat 6/17, Noon–4 p.m.:

Bug Bonanza

From beautiful butterflies to menacing mosquitoes, summer brings us an exciting array of interesting insects. Visitors can participate in insect games and activities and investigate some of our local insects up close. Volunteers will help greet guests, assist with prizes for a scavenger hunt and help with a simple craft. No bug-handling required! Contact Heather Ficke at hficke@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4774. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALISTS\Miami Whitewater Forest]**

MITCHELL MEMORIAL FOREST

Sat 6/3, 9 a.m.:

National Trails Day with REI

Come on out and get your hands dirty. Volunteers will learn about trail maintenance and invasive plant removal by participating in a hands-on trail project. When finished, try out some of the fun activities at Adventure Fest. Volunteers will receive a food truck voucher, courtesy of REI. Bring work gloves. Register on-line at greatparks.org/volunteer or contact Niki Marengo at nmarengo@greatparks.org or phone Niki at 513-245-7471. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **National Trails Day 2017 [NATURAL RESOURCES\Mitchell Memorial Forest]**

SHARON WOODS

Mon, Wed and/or Fri, 3/17– 11/6, 8:30 a.m.:

Walk Club Host

Walk Club Members, ages 50 and older, walk for fitness at five different park locations. Walk Club Hosts are needed at Sharon Woods to greet participants, walk with the group and report attendance. The Harbor Loop is 2.6 miles long and we are looking for Hosts with a moderate pace. Hosts are needed for one or all three days each week. Contact Jen Hilbert jhilbert@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-2345. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Walk Club Host [ADVENTURE OUTPOST\All Locations]**

WINTON WOODS

Sun 6/4, 2 p.m.:

Warren Wells Preserve Hike

Spend a summer afternoon on an off-trail hike. Here is your chance to venture off the beaten path into a nature preserve named after the famed local naturalist, Warren Wells. Volunteers will assist with trail support and must be able to walk over uneven terrain for long distances. We'll meet at Spring Beauty Dell picnic area. Contact Susan Sumner at ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 240. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALISTS\Winton Woods]**

Wed 6/7, 11 a.m.:

Little Tykes

Join us for our special wind day. Participants will take part in hands-on activities exploring the wonder and power of wind and create a few wind crafts to take home. Volunteers will assist youngsters with activities. Contact Susan at ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 240. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALISTS\Winton Woods]**.

Sat 6/10–Sat 8/26, 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]**.

Sun 6/11, 1–3 p.m.:

Rock & Fossil Fest

Amateur rock and fossil enthusiasts will gather rocks or fossils to show off or swap. Participants will take part in hands-on games and activities or show off their collection in the "Exploration Zone." Volunteers will assist guests in all sorts of rock activities and swapping. Call Susan at 513-521-7275, ext. 240 or email ssumner@greatparks.org. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALISTS\Winton Woods]**

Sat 6/17, 2 p.m.:

Operation Observation:

Bee Spotter

Have you seen any of these critters buzzing round your yard this year? Join us as guests discover how they can contribute their own observations to this exciting citizen science project. Volunteers will assist with trail support. Bee knowledge is helpful. Contact Susan at ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 240. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALISTS\Winton Woods]**

Tue 6/20, 1 p.m.:

Creek Adventure Hike

Summertime is perfect for venturing down an ancient limestone creek bed to delight in the geology and the critters. Volunteers will help with trail support and assist guests with creek exploration. Contact Susan at 513-521-7275, ext. 240 or email ssumner@greatparks.org or phone. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALISTS\Winton Woods]**

Fri 6/23, 9:30 a.m.–2 p.m.:

Hooked On Fishing Not on Drugs

We need your help with HOFNOD at Parky's Farm. Assist children ages 4-16 by helping with animal programs, contact yard, wagon rides and other activities. Contact Luke Ogonek at logonek@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-3276, ext. 100. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Parky's Farm Programs [PARKY'S FARM\Winton Woods]**

Thank You Volunteers

A little bit of hard work and a lot of fun got these containers ready for planting at Glenwood Gardens. Pictured left to right are volunteers Linda Bruner, Mary Rosselot, Beth Townsend, Elizabeth Oldiges, Sharon Schnur and Phyllis Flick. GIRL POWER! ~ Thank you so much from Doug Stevenson, Kathy Charvat and Becky Reed.



Check out these really cool before and after shots of some temporary flooring that volunteers helped clean, assemble and organize over at Glenwood Gardens. The flooring squares are now in temporary storage at Central Operations until needed again. Thank you to volunteers Greg Voorhies, Craig Montgomery and Rick Dikeman for their elbow grease and muscle. ~ Volunteer Services Intern Joe Von Allmen.



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



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, 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.