



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Parks - East

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<https://www.nps.gov/nace/in>

Volunteers-In-Parks Service Description

Position Title: Piscataway Park Interpreter



About the Accokeek Foundation

The Accokeek Foundation is a non-profit park partner organization dedicated to stewarding the land and educating the next generation. By actively working to cultivate passion for the cultural heritage of Piscataway Park, the Accokeek Foundation serves more than 100,000 park visitors every year while providing multi-disciplinary educational programming, careful stewardship of the Indigenous cultural landscape, and public outreach.

About National Capital Parks - East:

The administrative National Park Service unit of National Capital Parks – East (NACE) contains fourteen park units and parkways, including Piscataway Park. The overall unit consists of 98 locations and over 8,000 acres of recreation areas, historic homes, natural areas, farms, parkways, historic forts, archeological sites, and private properties. The sites provide important green and recreation space amongst dense urbanization and educate visitors through stories and the historical information related to the area.

Position Summary:

Accokeek Foundation is seeking volunteers to help provide engaging interpretive experiences that build visitors' connection to Piscataway Park and tell the stories of all the communities of this land, specifically those that have historically been overlooked. Volunteers serving as Piscataway Park Interpreter will support the Accokeek Foundation's interpretive work by supporting the creation and delivery of educational programming for school groups and the public.

Volunteer tasks may include:

- Engaging and educating visitors generally (site orientation, events and volunteer opportunities, stewardship practices, place-based history, heritage and culture, demonstrations or performances, answering questions, staffing tables at offsite outreach events)
- Supporting events (prior preparation, set up, clean up, visitor data collection, event sales, food sales, parking guidance, tech support)
- Researching, supporting, or leading educational programming (interpretive/historical research, activity or participant supervision, leading interpretive activities, hikes, and programs, portraying historic people)
- Creating new programming and providing program support as needed
- Learning and supporting various aspects of virtual programming (leading programs, managing technological program materials, supporting staff/guest presenters, virtual demos, etc.)
- Fairy Trails (designing, building, and delivering a house for assigned trail, providing routine maintenance)
- Stich n' Time (washing, carding, dyeing, spinning, knitting/crocheting, retting, beating, weaving, felting; creating and mending 18th century clothing, and supporting fleece and fiber sales through marketing, prep, and mailing)
- Supporting general park upkeep and other applicable duties as assigned

Physical Requirements of Work:

- Ability to stand and walk for moderate amounts of time

Qualifications (knowledge, skills, experience, ability):

All skill levels and experience accepted, as a variety of projects will be available. No previous experience is necessary, but volunteers must have interest or knowledge in Accokeek Foundation interpretive topics and be comfortable with public speaking, customer service, and working with public and youth audiences. Volunteers should have strong communication and organizational skills, ability to manage crowds, and a willingness to learn content and engagement strategies. Basic administrative skills including proficiency working with Microsoft Office and Google Docs is required. Any interpretive materials or tools will be provided. Background check and fingerprinting may be required, Accokeek Foundation will cover expenses.

Required training, certifications, or licenses:

Must participate in position orientation and training provided by volunteer supervisor before start of service.

Time Requirements:

Volunteer opportunities are available throughout the year and will be scheduled based on need/projects. Regular volunteers will develop a schedule with the shift supervisor for shiftwork, and one-time volunteers will attend a 'project day' or volunteer call to support.

Location of Position:

Piscataway Park

Supervisory Controls:

Volunteers will work under the guidance of Linda Zufelt and Casey Harlow.

Personal Property and Reimbursements:

All supplies will be provided, and no use of personal equipment is necessary. No reimbursements authorized.

Benefits:

Volunteers will also receive a 10% discount at the museum gift shop and Visitor Center. Volunteers will also be enrolled in the National Park Service – wide Volunteers – In – Park (VIP) program by signing volunteer service agreements. The VIP program protects those volunteering on National Park Service land in case of accident or injury through the Federal Employees' Compensation Act and the Federal Tort Claims Act. Additionally, for every 250 hours served, volunteers are eligible to receive the America the Beautiful interagency pass which covers entrance fees to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites, including national parks and wildlife refuges, for one year.