Who are we?

175 State Parks, Trails & Historic Sites

nearly 800,000 acres
Who are we?
Who are we?
Who are we?

31,804,658 Visitors
997 Employees
84 Friends Groups
Who are we?

Florida State Parks

Fast Facts

14,407 Volunteers

1,201,007 Volunteer Hours
Who are we?

3x Winner of National Gold Medal

1999  2005  2013

$68,457,035.00 Total Revenue  $2.8 Billion Economic Impact
Who are we?

The People → State of Florida Governor → Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Recreation and Parks

District Offices → Park Managers → Park Staff + Volunteers + Partners

We greatly appreciate the time and talents contributed by volunteers!
Volunteers Assist with the Mission

Provide resource-based recreation, while preserving, interpreting and restoring natural and cultural resources.
Volunteers Serve in all Areas of “The Big Five”

1. Visitor Services
2. Administration
3. Resource Management
4. Protection
5. Maintenance
You are Our Valued Park Partners

Volunteers are **INTEGRAL** to the work we do to accomplish **OUR MISSION**

Each year, volunteers contribute over 1 million hours!
Individual “Regular Service” Volunteers

Opportunities are diverse

Examples of regularly scheduled positions:

- Ranger Station Attendant
- Park Maintenance Assistant
- Special Event Coordinator
- Tour Guide or Program Leader
- Exotic Plant Removal
- Beach, Waterway or Trail Rover

Park policies vary for youth under the age of 18 - check with park for details
Campground Host and Resident Volunteers

Serve in an outstanding location

- 20 volunteer hours per week
- Free campsite in exchange*
- Up to 16-week stay at one park
- Enhance a visitor’s experience
- Assist with facility maintenance
- Assist with various park projects
- [List of parks with resident sites](#)

*Parks without campgrounds may also have resident volunteer opportunities
Group Volunteers or “Teams”

The more the merrier

- Beach clean-ups
- Remove exotic plants
- Trail maintenance
- Special events
- Citizen science
- And more

Family, civic, community, church, scouting, corporate and student groups are all invited to help outdoors
Join a Friends Group

Friends of Florida State Parks, Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation, and 84 “park friends”, also known as Citizen Support Organizations, are nonprofits that provide support to parks by volunteering, educating visitors, hosting events and raising funds for specific park projects.
Benefits and Recognition

Annual Park Pass – free entry to parks statewide

- Volunteer ID expires on December 31st
- Annual pass expires one year from issue date

- 100 hours of service - Volunteer ID free entry to the park you serve
- 500 hours - Annual Park Pass
Benefits and Recognition

Awards

Irene DeLaby Award
- 10,000 hours of service

Director’s Service Award
- 20,000 hours of service

Recognition of Service
- 100 hours
- 250 hours
- 500 hours
- 1000 hours

Hours served award tab is worn as a drop down bar attached to the metal nametag
Orientation & Training

Build skills, abilities and knowledge of the park and your position

- In-park orientation and introduction to the park’s Unit Management Plan
- Annual training is required: Sexual Harassment, Diversity and Worker’s Compensation
- Ongoing training for duties per position and for professional growth
  - Examples: equipment use, UTV/ATV operation, canoe/kayak, species monitoring
Responsibilities and Expectations

Volunteer Rights

- Receive Workers’ Compensation under state of Florida law
- Be part of the Florida Park Service team
- Have opportunities for growth
- Be involved in a variety of experiences
- Provide input on the volunteer program
- Be recognized for contributions
Responsibilities and Expectations

Volunteer Professionalism

- Be a steward for park resources
- Provide top-notch visitor services
- Work as a team with staff and volunteers
- Wear the uniform with pride
- Work safely and smartly
- Be reliable in fulfilling tasks and shifts
- Follow park policies and guidelines
- Complete annual agreement and trainings
- Attend training sessions and meetings
- Report volunteer hours
Uniform – Symbol of Service and Stewardship

Initial uniform is provided

- Grey t-shirt (long or short sleeve)
- Nametag or metal nameplate
- Volunteer cap or unisex ranger hat - optional

Items available for volunteer purchase

- Grey dress shirt
- Volunteer unisex windbreaker
- Black pants/shorts/skirt – similar to ranger uniform style
- Black leather belt
- Shoes/boots and socks as per policy
- Black tie
Uniform – Symbol of Service and Stewardship

Class A – Dress Uniform
- Dress grey uniform shirt (long sleeve only)
- Dress black pants – long pants or skirt
- Black tie
- Nameplate and hours served tab
- Black leather belt
- Black close-toed shoes/boots and socks

Class B – Day to Day Uniform
- Grey dress shirt or grey t-shirt
- Solid tan, khaki or black pants, shorts or skirt
- Nameplate and hours served tab
- Black leather belt
- Volunteer cap (summer or winter) or ranger hat
- Shoes/boots and socks
Uniform – Historical Period Clothing

Cultural Sites, Programs & Re-enactments

- Appropriate period clothing can be worn when performing living history interpretation
- Your park will specify what attire is approved and at what times
Volunteer Portal – Your Time is Valuable

Track your service

- Enter volunteer hours and view cumulative hours served
  ➢ See when you hit 500 hours to receive a free annual pass!
- Easy to update your profile
- Complete trainings and get reminders when they expire
- Sign the Volunteer Agreement
- Search for volunteer jobs
- Go to Vsys Live: Volunteer Portal
Welcome to the team

Thank you for supporting Florida State Parks!

#FLStateParks | FloridaStateParks.org