



Become a VIP

Volunteer In Parks

STATE OF NEVADA

Dept. of Conservation
& Natural Resources

Division of State Parks

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Carson City, NV 89701-5248
(775) 684-2770

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You can make a difference!

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Volunteers make things happen and Nevada State Parks would like your help. Whether you have a few hours a month or several hours a day, there is interesting work to be done and your talents are needed.

I am only one, but I still am **one**.

I cannot do everything, but still I can do **something**.

Because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something **I can do**.

- Edward E. Hale

Nevada has 25 unique parks statewide representing our historical and natural heritage. Each park has different needs and provides inviting spaces to spend some time. Here are some tasks traditionally done by volunteers; new ideas are welcome and we invite you to see how your own unique skills and interests could benefit the park nearest you.

Do you have a few hours a month?

- Lead or assist with an historical tour.
- Lead a wildflower walk, bird watch or other interpretive program.
- Demonstrate living history skills or activities.
- Present an arts and crafts class, program or demonstration.
- Sew an historic costume.

Lots of time, but you travel frequently?

- Provide training to new volunteers, sit on volunteer board and participate in scheduled meetings.
- Supplement duties normally assigned to paid staff as work loads demand.
- Build or improve a trail.
- Design and plant a garden.
- Perform maintenance duties such as mowing, weeding, pruning, watering, painting, carpentry, etc.

A few hours a week?

- Provide information at a visitor center, campground, or entrance station.
- Research and develop interpretive collections.
- Create an historical program or character.
- Catalog historic collections.
- Become a docent helping visitors understand Nevada's history.
- Find out what happens in winter: Assist with clerical duties such as filing, typing, answering phones, etc.
- Organized groups such as Boy Scouts, church groups, conservation organizations, and others are encouraged to volunteer.

Retired and looking for a vacation spot?

- Become a campground host.

Are you ready to give it a try? Here's how:

Talk to any Park Ranger to find out about opportunities at the park of your choice, and/or fill out the volunteer in parks (VIP) application and submit it via fax or mail to any park in which you wish to volunteer. Can't find a person or a form? Call the Division Office in Carson City at 775-684-2770 (Monday-Friday 8-5) and express your interest and where you want to help. Leave a phone number or e-mail address and we will contact you. Upon acceptance, a brief written agreement will be completed between you and State Parks.

Be a VIP - Volunteer In Parks - With your help we can maintain and expand the services offered to the public. Please join us in the

mission to “preserve, protect and develop” Nevada’s State Parks.

“Try not to have a good time ... This is supposed to be educational.” - Charles Schulz

The following lists the various state parks by four regions and the type of volunteers needed:

CARSON REGION

DAYTON STATE PARK - Dayton State Park is located near the Comstock historic mining area. It is located on U.S. Highway 50 just east of Dayton, 12 miles east of Carson City. Volunteers needed include a Campground Host, Trail Worker, Fence Builder and Interpretive Assistant.

☞ **CONTACT:** Dayton State Park, P.O. Box 1478, Dayton, NV 89403, (775) 687-5678.

HOME RANCH HISTORIC PARK – The ranch was home of German immigrant Heinrich Friedrich Dangberg, who founded the site in 1856. The ranch is located on State Route 88, just one mile past the junction of U.S. Hwy. 385 and State Route 88. Volunteers needed include a Research Assistant, Interpretive Assistant, Grounds Assistant and Artifacts Assistant.

☞ **CONTACT:** Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, NV 89411, (775) 782-2590.

LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK - The park consists of over 14,000 acres of Sierra forest, including three miles of diverse Lake Tahoe shoreline. Most of Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park is located on the northeastern region of Lake Tahoe along S.R. 28, with the Cave Rock Unit located along U.S. Highway 50. Volunteers needed include Visitor Ctr/Gift Shop Assistant, Maintenance Assistant, Grounds Assistant, Interpreter, Spooner Lake Assistant, Cave Rock Assistant and backcountry bike patrol.

☞ **CONTACT:** Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, P.O. Box 8867, Incline Village, NV 89452, (775) 831-0494, Fax (775) 831-2514.

MORMON STATION - Located in the town of Genoa, the park is the site of Nevada’s first permanent settlement. Genoa is a small quaint town set in the shadow of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Carson City is 12 miles to the north and Minden/Gardnerville is 6 miles to the south. The park is staffed mid-May through October. Volunteers needed include Research Assistant, Museum/Park Attendant, Grounds Assistant, Artifact Assistant, Interpretive Assistant, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker.

☞ **CONTACT:** Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, NV 89411, (775) 782-2590.

WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK - Washoe Lake is located between Reno and Carson City. Features of the park include Washoe Lake, which covers approximately 5,700 surface acres when full. It is located 5 miles north of Carson City via U.S. 395 and East Lake Blvd. A volunteer is needed as Campground Host, Trail Worker and Interpretive Assistant.

☞ **CONTACT:** Washoe Lake State Park, 4855 East Lake Blvd., Carson City, NV 89704, (775) 687-4319, Fax (775) 684-8053.

FALLON REGION

BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK - Berlin, a remote turn of the century mining town, is preserved in state of “arrested decay.” Less than a mile from the old town; fossils are displayed of ancient ichthyosaurs, giant fish lizards that swam in a warm seam, which covered this part of Nevada about 180 million years ago. The park is located 23 miles east of Gabbs. Volunteers needed include a Research Assistant, Assistant Curator, Trail Worker and Naturalist, Mine Host Operator, Interpretive Assistant and Blacksmith.

☞ **CONTACT:** Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, HC 61, Box 61200, Austin, NV 89310-9301, (775) 964-2440.

FALLON REGION HEADQUARTERS - The Headquarters oversees the eight state park areas in central and northern Nevada including Belmont Courthouse, Berlin-Ichthyosaur, Fort Churchill, Lahontan, Rye Patch, South Fork, Walker Lake and Wild Horse. Volunteers needed include Clerical Assistant and Interpretive Coordinator.

☞ **CONTACT:** Regional Manager, Fallon Region of State Parks, 16799 Lahontan Dam, Fallon, NV 89406, (775) 867-3001, Fax (775) 867-4559.

FORT CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK - Fort Churchill offers the remnants of the U.S. Army fort built in 186 and abandoned 9 years later. A Pony Express station was nearby and later the Overland Telegraph came through. The Fort is located off alternate U.S. 95, eight miles south of Silver Springs. Volunteers needed include Visitor Center Attendant, Interpretive Assistant, Grounds Assistant, Artillery Maintenance Assistant, Campground Host and Park Caretaker.

☞ **CONTACT:** Fort Churchill State Historic Park, 10000 Hwy. 95A, Silver Springs, NV 89429, (775) 577-2345.

LAHONTAN STATE RECREATIONAL AREA - The park includes Lahontan Reservoir, which is 16 miles long, offers 72 miles of shoreline and 10,000 surface acres when full. It is located on the Carson River, 18 miles west of Fallon and 45 miles east of Carson City via U.S. Hwy. 50. Volunteers needed include a Campground Host and Interpretive Assistant.

☞ **CONTACT:** Lahontan State Recreational Area, 16799 Lahontan Dam, Fallon, NV 89406, (775) 577-2235.

RYE PATCH STATE RECREATIONAL AREA - Rye Patch includes a 11,000 surface-acre reservoir located one mile off Interstate 80, 22 miles east of Lovelock. Volunteers are needed for Campground Host and a Grounds Assistant.

☞ **CONTACT:** Rye Patch State Recreational Area, 2505 Rye Patch Reservoir Rd., Lovelock, NV 89419, (775) 538-7321, Fax (775) 538-7420.

WILD HORSE STATE RECREATIONAL AREA - This park is located on the northeast shore of Wild Horse Reservoir, 65 miles north of Elko on Nevada S.R. 225. A volunteer is needed for Campground Host.

☎ **CONTACT:** Wild Horse State Recreational Area, HC 31 Box 265, Elko, NV 89801, (775) 758-6493, Fax (775) 758-6441.

PANACA REGION

BEAVER DAM STATE PARK - Beaver Dam offers a flowing stream and small reservoir in the midst of a pine and juniper forest. It is located off U.S. Hwy. 93, six miles north of Caliente then 32 miles east on a gravel road. Volunteers needed include a Campground Host, Grounds Assistant and Interpretive Assistant.

☎ **CONTACT:** Beaver Dam State Park, P.O. Box 176, Panaca, NV 89042, (775) 728-4460.

CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK - Cathedral Gorge is a long narrow valley cut into tan bentonite clay formations. Peculiar erosion has created towers resembling cathedral spires. A Regional Visitor Center is also located at the park. It is located west off U.S. Hwy. 93, just north of Panaca. Volunteers needed include a Campground Host, Trail Worker, Interpretive Assistant, Visitor Ctr. Attendant, Research Assistant and Grounds Assistant.

☎ **CONTACT:** Cathedral Gorge State Park, P.O. Box 176, Panaca, NV 89042, (775) 728-4460, Fax (775) 728-4469.

CAVE LAKE STATE PARK - Cave Lake is one of the most mountain parks in Nevada with a 32-acre reservoir. It is located off U.S. Hwy. 93, 8 miles south of Ely, then east 7 mi. via the Success Summit Rd. (State Route 846). Volunteers needed include a Campground Host and Interpretive Assistant.

☎ **CONTACT:** Cave Lake State Park, P.O. Box 151761, Ely, NV 89301.

ECHO CANYON STATE PARK - Echo Canyon features a 65-acre reservoir with a boat launch. It is located 14 miles southwest of Pioche via State Route 322 and 86. Volunteers needed include a Campground Host and Trail Worker.

☎ **CONTACT:** Echo Canyon State Park, HC 74 Box 295, Pioche, NV 89047, (775) 962-5103.

ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE - The little, one-room schoolhouse built in 1922 by Reuben Bradshaw, was used for children in the remote railroad siding and outlying ranches south of Caliente. Elgin Schoolhouse is located 20 miles south of Caliente in Rainbow Canyon on State Route 318. Volunteers needed include a Research Assistant and Interpretive Assistant.

☎ **CONTACT:** Elgin Schoolhouse State Park, c/o Kershaw-Ryan State Park, P.O. Box 985, Caliente, NV 89008, (702) 403-7909

KERSHAW-RYAN STATE PARK - Kershaw-Ryan is located in a colorful canyon with a miniature oak forest and vertical cliffs covered with trailing vines. It is located three miles south of Caliente along the Rainbow Canyon Road on State Route 317. A volunteer is needed for Campground Host, Grounds Attendant and Gardening Assistant.

☎ **CONTACT:** Beaver Dam State Park, HC 64 Box 3, Caliente, NV 89008, (775) 726-3564.

PANACA REGION HEADQUARTERS - The Headquarters is located in Panaca and oversees seven state parks and one regional visitor center in eastern Nevada. These parks include Kershaw Ryan, Beaver Dam, Echo Canyon, Elgin Schoolhouse, Spring Valley, Cathedral Gorge, Cave Lake, Ward Charcoal Ovens, and the Regional Visitor's Center which is also located in Panaca. Volunteers are needed to act as a receptionist, clerical assistant, and to answer and direct incoming calls.

☎ **CONTACT:** Regional Manager, Region V, Nevada Division of State Parks, P.O. Box 176, Panaca, NV 89042, (775) 728-4467, Fax (775) 728-4469.

SPRING VALLEY STATE PARK - Spring Valley provides water-oriented recreation at the 65-acre Eagle Valley Reservoir. Visitors also enjoy hiking and exploring the scenic and historic pioneer ranch lands nearby. Boating, picnicking and camping facilities are provided. The park is located 18 miles east of Pioche via State Route 322. Volunteers needed include a Campground Host, Interpretive Assistant and Conservation Project Worker.

☎ **CONTACT:** Spring Valley State Park, HC 74 Box 201, Pioche, NV 89043, (775) 962-5102.

WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE HISTORIC PARK - Ward Charcoal consists of six large ovens, which were expertly constructed from native stone during the 1870's. The charcoal made in the ovens was used in the smelters in nearby mines. Primitive picnicking and camping are available. It is located by turning off U.S. Route 6-50-93, five miles south of Ely, then 11 miles by dirt road. A volunteer Campground Host is needed.

LAS VEGAS REGION

SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH STATE PARK - Spring Mountain Ranch is located within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. It is located 15 miles west of Las Vegas via West Charleston Blvd. (SR 159). Volunteers needed include Administrative Aide, Interpretive Aide and Grounds Assistant.

☎ **CONTACT:** Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, P.O. Box 124, Blue Diamond, NV 89004, (702) 875-4141, Fax (702) 875-1909.

NEVADA STATE PARK



**Nevada Division of State Parks ■ Volunteer in Parks (VIP) Program
APPLICATION**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Phone Number _____

Birth Date: _____ Occupation: _____ Retired? _____

Drivers License State: _____ License Class: _____ License No.: _____

In case of emergency please contact: Name _____ Phone Number _____

Job related skills, abilities and experience:

List interests and hobbies:

Volunteer position you are applying for:

First Choice: Job Title _____ Park _____

Second Choice: Job Title _____ Park _____

Dates you will be available this season:

From _____ to _____ Days of week available: (Circle one or more) S M T W TH F S

Hours available each day: From _____ to _____ Other: _____

Will you be available during future years: Yes _____ No _____

Are you interested in camping at the park(s) where you perform Volunteer Work?

Yes _____ No _____ If yes, what type of camping equipment do you have?

Camper _____ Trailer _____ Motorhome _____ Other _____ Length _____

Your reasons for wanting to be a volunteer in state parks: _____

NOTE: A background check will be done on all volunteers per State Park's Volunteer In Parks (VIP) manual.

Criminal Conviction/Traffic Violations: Have you ever been convicted of:

(1) A misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony (excluding juvenile adjudication)? Yes No

(2) A moving traffic violation within the last five years? Yes No

If yes, please explain below giving date(s), time(s), locations(s), circumstance(s), and dollar amount of fine(s). Include any conditions of your parole and/or probation, if applicable. Moving traffic violations will only be considered if driving a vehicle is a job requirement. A criminal conviction is not an automatic bar to employment. Each case is considered on its individual merits.

I certify that all statements made on this application are true and complete and that false statements may be considered cause for dismissal. By submitting this application, I agree to give consent for a criminal background check related to my work as a volunteer with the Nevada Division of State Parks.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Please submit completed application to any Nevada State Park Ranger or mail to the park where you wish to work. Names and addresses are included in this pamphlet. **Thank you for your application.**

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

NCIC Check: _____ Date: _____ Officer Initial: _____

Approved by: _____ Park Supervisor Date: _____

Approved by: _____ Regional Manager Date: _____

#4162

NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS
901S STEWART ST STE 5005
CARSON CITY, NV 89701-5248

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK - Valley of Fire offers a geologically incredible 37, 00 acre scenic area, which gains its name from the red Jurassic Period sandstone formed 150 million years ago. It is 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas via Interstate 15 and State Route 169. Volunteers needed include a Campground Host, Interpretive Assistant, Visitor Center Desk Attendant, Clerical Assistant, Trail Worker, Conservation Project Worker and Maintenance Assistant.

☎ **CONTACT:** Valley of Fire State Park, P.O. Box 515, Overton, NV 89040, (702) 397-2088, Fax (702) 397-2621.

Recent volunteer projects:

Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park: **Backcountry Bike Patrol** helps keep trails and riders safe at Spooner Lake. **Friends of Sand Harbor** assists with visitor center operations and interpretive programs.

Dayton State Park: **Interpretive trail** providing access to the Carson River: An Eagle Scout project has added a new "River Trail" featuring log benches and interpretive signs.

Dayton State Park: "The Old Pond" **Picnic area and Meadow Trail:** Community members, park staff, school kids and community service workers spent two mornings and developed a beautiful new picnic area with three tables and a trail, under the direction of the Lyon County Coalition.

Cathedral Gorge Visitor Center: The trail from the Visitor Center to the Bulionville Cemetery was built as an Eagle Scout project.