

## Volunteer Program

### Interpretation Volunteer

US Park Police Horse Stables Education Center



#### What's Involved?

Volunteers help the Education Center at the US Park Police Horse Stables function at its best by creating a hospitable, informative, and visitor-centered environment. The primary task of an Interpretation Volunteer is to interact with and assist visitors. This may include sharing historical and cultural information about the US Park Police, Mounted Unit, horse care, and the National Mall, as well as providing directions and orientation to the park and surrounding area. Volunteers may also have opportunities to assist with formal interpretive programs. Other duties include opening and closing the Education Center, monitoring and recording visitation, greeting visitors and encouraging the sharing of stories, taking out and storing 'we're open' sandwich boards, maintaining brochure/map stock, and reporting safety, security, and maintenance concerns and emergencies.

#### What are the benefits?

- Gaining valuable job skills in education and hospitality in a public-facing role
- Being a part of a generous and dedicated volunteer corps
- Improving your storytelling skills
- Meeting people of all ages and backgrounds

#### The role is suitable for those with:

- Excellent communication skills
- Desire to assist visitors and provide outstanding customer service
- Enthusiasm, friendliness, and a positive attitude
- Willingness to learn new information to enhance your ability to educate and orient visitors

#### Commitment:

Suggested minimum of 6 months (two shifts per month, more encouraged). Preference given to a volunteer who can commit to a weekly shift. Shorter-term summer involvement may also be available pending training and approval. Because the center will be kept open and operated almost entirely by volunteer support, we ask volunteers to keep a regular schedule and communicate any changes with the program in advance when possible.

#### Site:

The US Park Police Horse Stables and Education Center is located off of Independence Avenue, just East of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and South of the JFK Hockey Fields and Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. The nearest metro station, Smithsonian-National Mall, is a 20-minute walk away.

#### Requirements:

Age: 18 or older (younger applicants with parental/guardian approval may be considered). Volunteers must wear park-issued volunteer uniform and name tag. As representatives of The National Park Service and Trust for the National Mall, volunteers must adhere to the policies, procedures, and code of conduct as outlined in the volunteer handbook provided prior to or during training.

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### Physical Conditions

Volunteers will work from the Education Center, which is an indoor, air-conditioned facility. Volunteer work may include standing for long periods of time, walking short and long distances, or occasionally greeting visitors outside of the facility by the horse paddocks. Some work greeting visitors may also occur outside.

### Hours / Days of Operation:

Days of operation and shift times: The Education Center will be open to the public Thursday – Sunday, 9 AM – 5 PM. Shifts will be 9 AM – 1 PM and 1 – 5 PM. Depending on volunteer availability, the open days and hours may be adjusted. The goal is to have volunteers on-site to open the center as much as possible, especially during peak times. Registration for shifts is required in advance through SignUpGenius.

### Training:

- Online training materials to cover the history of the US Park Police Mounted Unit, the unit's role on the National Mall, and general horse care,
- Orientation tour of the facility
- The first shift(s) will be alongside an experienced or NPS/TNM staff member or volunteer

### Support:

Training for this position will be provided. In addition, NPS and/or TNM personnel will be available for questions and assistance via the radio, phone, or email. Please feel free to send questions to [volunteer@nationalmall.org](mailto:volunteer@nationalmall.org).

### About the United States Park Police Horse Stables and Education Center:

The Trust for the National Mall completed construction on the new state-of-the-art and sustainable horse stables and education center at the end of 2022. This milestone project replaced the original stables, which were built as a temporary structure in the 1970s. The facility includes a full police station, a new horse stable for the officers and horses of the Mounted Unit and, importantly, it creates a new Education Center that will welcome the public for the first time to learn about the horses and their history on the National Mall.

### About The Trust for the National Mall:

The Trust for the National Mall is the leading nonprofit, nonpartisan philanthropic partner of the National Park Service dedicated to restoring, enriching and preserving the National Mall, the Trust brings expertise, private funding and in-kind support to time-sensitive restoration and sustainability projects, mobilizes volunteers and provides educational opportunities to ensure that the National Mall endures and evolves as a vibrant space for all. Learn more at [www.nationalmall.org](http://www.nationalmall.org)

### About The National Park Service:

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. Learn more at [nps.gov](http://nps.gov)