Volunteer meetings are a great way to meet new people, hear about upcoming volunteer opportunities and learn something interesting from an exciting lineup of guest speakers. Meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Winton Centre Auditorium, unless otherwise noted. Coffee and tea are provided. Bring in your favorite baked goods to share. No need to RSVP, just come and enjoy!

**Jul 16** – Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum is steeped in rich history and blessed with nature’s beauty. It serves as memorials to the past while remaining committed to providing elegant and tranquil resting places well into the future. Phil Cottell, from Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum, will present the story of Spring Grove, focusing on the many families who were instrumental in making Cincinnati what it is today.

**Sep 17** – Stay tuned!

When recording your hours in VIC for volunteer meetings, log them under [Volunteer Meeting [Training] Volunteer Services]. Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.
Jillian Rapien
What is your favorite outdoor activity? Bike riding. I’ve ridden to Cleveland and back! Other interests include kayaking, trail running and waterskiing.

What might surprise us about you? I would sell my car before my motorcycle. As much as I enjoy riding my bicycle, it just doesn’t compare to one with a motor.

Whom would you most like to share a meal with? Inspired by Rhonda Cornum’s book, “She Went to War”, Rhonda and her family are my choice. Rhonda is an equestrian, skydives, and builds experimental aircraft with her husband. She was a finalist to be an astronaut, was a U.S. Army flight surgeon in the Persian Gulf War, survived a helicopter crash and taken prisoner of war. She came home to continue her Army career and retired as a Brigadier General. Every meal after that would probably seem bland to me.

What most excites you right now? I’m excited (not scared) to be leaving for the Army this summer. Having lived with my family in Cincinnati for 23 years, all my comforts are anchored here. I don’t expect the transition to be easy and I hope the Drill Sergeants are understanding (ha-ha). I feel ready to face the unknown and confront the challenges the Army has in store.

Volunteer Spotlight

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. Click on any bolded assignment category and you will be hyperlinked to the VIC login portal.

FARBACH WERNER

Snake Week
Tue–Sat 6/4–6/8, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Do you like snakes? Then we want you to help with activities during this fun-filled week where guests will learn about several Ohio native snakes. Meet at Ellenwood Nature Barn. To volunteer, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpreter Programs [Farbach Werner\Education & Events].

Turtle Week
Tue–Sat 6/11–6/15, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Join us for this exhibit featuring totally turtle activities. Volunteers are needed to help guests with crafts and other activities Meet at Ellenwood Nature Barn. To volunteer, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpreter Programs [Farbach Werner\Education & Events].

Owls of Ohio Week
Tue–Sat 6/18–6/22, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
See live Ohio owls at this popular annual exhibit. Volunteers are needed to help guests dissect owl pellets and make crafts. Meet at Ellenwood Nature Barn. To volunteer, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpreter Programs [Farbach Werner\Education & Events].

Trail “Scavenger” Hunt
Fri–Mon 6/28–7/1, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Volunteers will welcome guests and hand out scavenger hunts and prizes during this fun-filled discovery hike. Our very own scavenger, the vulture, will be on hand as well. Meet at Ellenwood Nature Barn. To volunteer, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpreter Programs [Farbach Werner\Education & Events].

FERNBANK

Ohio River Sweep
Sat 6/15, 9 a.m.-noon
Gather a crew or come solo to help us make an impact during this multi-state, multi-site litter cleanup along the Ohio River. Help Great Parks, ORSANCO (Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission) and many other partnering organizations make this the best river cleanup yet! Meet at the Lee Picnic Shelter. To volunteer for this community event, register online at greatparks.org/volunteer or contact Niki Marengo at nmarengo@greatparks.org. All ages welcome. Park Cleanup [Fernbank\C&P West].

GLENWOOD GARDENS

Trillium Art & Music Fair
Sun 6/9, noon–5 p.m. (various start times)
Volunteers are needed to help with vendor set up and teardown, Great Parks’ information booth and event activities. More than 30 artists and craftspersons will showcase their talents and work. Lots of fun music and refreshments will also be on hand. Meet at the Gatehouse. To volunteer, contact Liz Keer at lkeer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 285. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Special Events [Glenwood Gardens\Education & Events].

Landscaping: Maintain Flower Beds & Pots
Recurring, now-10/31
Your help is needed watering, fertilizing and deadheading flowers in containers and annual plantings. With your help, these frequently visited areas will shine.
To volunteer, contact Kurt Goldick at kgoldick@greatparks.org or phone 513-301-6534. For volunteers ages 14 and up, Gardening & Landscaping [Glenwood Gardens|C&P Central].

**MYPOP Gardening**
Recurring, flexible scheduling
Volunteers can “adopt” an area within the Highfield Discovery Garden. Special one-time group projects occur as well. For less experienced gardeners, we offer three-hour supervised gardening sessions to get you going. To volunteer, contact Kathy Charvat at kcharvat@greatparks.org or phone 513-771-8733. For volunteers ages 18 and up. MYPOP [Glenwood Gardens|Guest Exp Central].

**Visitor Center and Gift Shop Help**
Recurring Tue, Fri & Sat, call for shift times
Volunteers are needed to help provide park guests with truly memorable experiences. If you enjoy making someone’s day better, volunteer at Cotswold Visitor Center. Volunteers answer phones, assist guests with purchases, run the cash register, answer questions and do light housekeeping which will make the facility shine. Training provided. To volunteer, contact Doug Stevenson at dstevenson@greatparks.org or phone 513-771-8733, ext. 110. For volunteers ages 18 and up. Visitor Center/Niche [Glenwood Gardens|Guest Exp Central].

**LAKE ISABELLA**
Great Parks’ Backyard Campout
Fri 6/21, 3 p.m.—Sat 6/22, 10 a.m. (various start times)
Join Great Parks for a night under the stars! Families can camp in the park and connect with nature. Volunteers are needed to help direct guests to parking and campsites and keep a watchful eye on the moon bounce, fire pits and other campout activities. Meet at Riverside Lodge. To volunteer, contact Liz Keer at lkeer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 285. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Special Events [Lake Isabella|Education & Events].

**MITCHELL MEMORIAL FOREST**
Tree Care and Invasive Species Removal
Recurring, first Thursday of the month
Over the last few years, Great Parks has planted lots of native trees at Mitchell Memorial Forest. We are seeking help caring for these trees as they grow into forests. Volunteers will work with staff to remove vines, invasive species and straighten tree cages and tubes. Meet at the Tall Pines parking area. To volunteer, contact Zach Marcum at zmarcum@greatparks.org or phone 513-503-1326. For volunteers 18 years of age and up. Stew Crew [Mitchell Memorial|C&P West].

**SHARON WOODS**
Invasive Plant Removal
Wed 6/5, Noon-2:30 p.m.
We need your help removing invasive trees, vines and shrubs including callery pear, honeysuckle and autumn olive. This will enhance wildlife habitat and make more room for native plants to grow. Trained herbicide applicators are a plus. Meet at High Plains Picnic Shelter. To volunteer, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Park Cleanup [Miami Whitewater|C&P West].

**MIAMI WHITEWATER FOREST**
Inner Loop Cleanup
Tue 6/4, 9 a.m.-noon
We’ll be cleaning up litter along the paved inner loop fitness trail. With your help, we’ll make a positive impact on wildlife habitat. Meet at the paved loop just inside the main park entrance off of Mount Hope Rd. To volunteer, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Park Cleanup [Miami Whitewater|C&P West].

Audubon Grove Cleanup
Thu 6/20, 9 am.-noon
Volunteers are needed to help remove invasive plants and debris from Audubon Grove, which will improve wildlife habitat in this 4,438 acre park. Trained herbicide applicators are a plus. Meet at High Plains Picnic Shelter. To volunteer, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Park Cleanup [Miami Whitewater|C&P West].

**Get Certified in First Aid CPR**
Sign up for National Safety Council First Aid CPR classes. First Aid CPR is an optional training, free and open to all Great Parks volunteers and employees. Trainings are held at the Sharon Woods Employee Training Center, adjacent to the Sharon Centre. Certification cards will be mailed to you approximately 6 weeks after completion of training. Upcoming training dates are:

- Thu 6/13, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Tue 7/16, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Registration closes one-week prior to training so don’t delay. Sign up online at: [https://volunteers-greatparks.bridgeapp.com/login](https://volunteers-greatparks.bridgeapp.com/login). (your user name is your 6 digit volunteer ID number found on your photo ID card. Example: 000987 or 009876)

If you register for this training and can no longer attend, please cancel or reschedule by logging into your Bridge account using the link above.

Not able to log into Bridge? Contact the Volunteer Services Department at volunteer@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275 and ask for Kris or Niki.

Please record these training hours under First Aid CPR [Training|Risk Management]. Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.

greatparks.org/volunteer
tors a plus. Meet in front of the Sharon Centre. To volunteer, contact Wayne Hawkins at whawksins@greatparks.org. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Sharon Woods\C&P East].

Creepy Winter Creeper
Wed 6/19, 8–11 a.m.
We need your help spraying winter creeper, another pesky invasive plant that is taking over the forest floor. Trained herbicide applicators are needed for this “creepy” job! Meet at Lone Oak Shelter. To volunteer, contact Wayne Hawkins at whawksins@greatparks.org. For volunteers ages 18 and up. Stew Crew [Sharon Woods\C&P East].

SHAWNEE LOOKOUT
Riverlands Cleanup
Sat 6/29, 8–11 a.m.
There’s always someone downstream from us! Let’s make the river a little better for our neighbors by cleaning up litter. Bring heavy work gloves and wear boots or sturdy closed toe shoes. Spoiler – you’re going to get dirty! Meet at the boat ramp. To volunteer, contact Adam McCosham at amccosham@greatparks.org or phone 513-978-7198. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Park Cleanup [Shawnee Lookout\C&P West].

WINTON WOODS
National Trails Day: Kingfisher Trail Rebuild
Sat 6/1, 9 a.m.–noon
Volunteer to put the finishing touches on a trail re-route that will eliminate erosion and create a sustainable trail for future hikers. We’ll be working on the trail surface, taking out old structures and removing invasive plants and litter. Meet at the Kingfisher Picnic Shelter. To volunteer for this community event, register online at greatparks.org/volunteer or contact Niki Marengo at nmarengo@greatparks.org. For volunteers 14 years of age and up. Adopt a Trail [Winton Woods\Natural Resources].

Wonders of Wind
Sun 6/2, 2–5 p.m.
Your help is needed at craft stations making kites, sailboats and pinwheels during this fun-filled day. Meet at Parky’s Farm Hayloft Barn. To volunteer, contact Liz Keer at lkeer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 285. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Special Events [Parky’s Farm\Education & Events].

Special Riders Program
Sat 6/8–Sat 8/24, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
Volunteers are needed to lead or walk beside horses ridden by Special Rider students during this therapeutic riding class. Training is provided at the Riding Center. To volunteer, contact Margie Rennie at mrennie1@icloud.com or phone 513-931-3057. For volunteers ages 14 and up. SRP [Riding Center\Interpreter Programs].

Snakes at the Harbor
Sun 6/9, 1–3 p.m.
Do you like snakes? Then we want you to help with activities during this fun-filled open house where guests will learn about several of Ohio’s native snakes. Meet at the Harbor Pavilion. To volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssunner@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpretive Program [Winton Woods\Education & Events].

Turtles at the Harbor
Sun 6/16, 1–3 p.m.
Join us for this open house featuring totally turtle activities. Volunteers are needed to help guests with crafts and other activities. Meet at the Harbor Pavilion. To volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssunner@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpretive Program [Winton Woods\Education & Events].

Adopt a Trail Training
Thu 6/20, 5:30–7 p.m.
This training is for anyone who is currently signed up or would like to participate in Great Parks’ Adopt a Trail (AAT) program. Information will include AAT responsibilities and different techniques used in trail maintenance. AAT takes place on natural surface trails, so participants should be able to walk over hilly and uneven terrain. The training takes place indoors at the Winton Centre auditorium. To volunteer, contact Bryan Howell at bhowell@greatparks.org or phone 513-205-6095. For volunteers 18 years of age or older. Adopt a Trail [Training\Natural Resources].

Owls at the Harbor
Sun 6/23, 1–3 p.m.
See a live owl at this avian open house. Volunteers are needed to greet guests and help with crafts and other activities. Meet at the Harbor Pavilion. To volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssunner@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpretive Program [Winton Woods\Education & Events].

Volunteer Avian Monitoring Program (VAMP)
Sat 6/22, location TBD
Do you like birding? Are you a pro at using binoculars and identifying birds by sound? Great Parks is pursuing a new citizen science effort to document annual presence of birds within our parks. We’re looking for several volunteers who would be interested in learning about this effort and are willing to be group leaders to provide guidance to others. To learn more, contact Zurijanne Carter at zcarter@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551 ext. 269. For volunteers ages 14 and up. VAMP [Training\Natural Resources].