2019 Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo is Here!

Niki Marengo, Volunteer Coordinator

It's almost that time! Over 4,000 (yes, you read that right) excited children and adults will be experiencing the Kid's Outdoor Adventure Expo on Friday, July 12 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Winton Woods Harbor. The expo is a free event that gives kids the opportunity to explore outdoor activities they may not otherwise have a chance to – activities like catching their first fish, hitting a golf ball, paddling a raft, getting up close and personal with a farm animal, climbing a rock wall and so much more!

Great Parks is proud and excited to be able to host this gathering – the largest free outdoor environmental education event in the Midwest – but WE NEED YOUR HELP! Volunteers can work a morning shift, an afternoon shift or just stay for the whole darn day. Lunch will be provided to those who commit to both shifts. So what will you be doing? We’ll need your help in these areas:

• Raft paddling
• Fishing derby (baiting hooks, casting lines, untangling lines, weighing fish)
• Mini golf
• Activity moderating (bounce house, Winton Queen and gaga ball game)
• Compost/recycling/trash educators - Zero Waste Goalie Training coming soon. See page 4 for more information.
• Healthy snack distributors
• Hospitality tent (answering questions, first aid, lost and found)
• Water distributors

You’ll have a great time and help lots of kids create some unforgettable memories in the process. For more information or to volunteer, contact Niki Marengo at nmarengo@greatparks.org. Thanks!

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 a memorial 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 history 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.
Phyllis Flick

Tell us about your career: After retiring from Jewish Hospital Cardiac Cath Lab, I found I wasn’t ready to be idle so I returned to a scheduling position in the same department and twelve years later, I’m still there!

What is your favorite volunteer activity? My favorite volunteer activity involves gardening, so I mostly work at the Shaker Trace Nursery and Glenwood Gardens. I have enjoyed learning techniques to use in my own yard from employees and volunteers.

What is your favorite volunteer memory? Volunteering with my daughter, Tracie Sergent, who is the Guest Services Manager at Great Parks. She introduced me to the volunteer program. We have done winter hikes together and the Holiday in Lights 5k. One of my favorite memories is hiking in near zero temps!

What are your retirement plans? I would love to travel more. I especially like road trips to see our beautiful country and to visit family and friends. I hope to return to some of the National Parks I visited as a child.

34th Annual Butterfly Count
Sat 7/6, 9 a.m.

We need more eyes to see more butterflies. We’ll be starting at Miami Whitewater Forest and moving to Mitchell Memorial Forest and Fernald Preserve. A special emphasis on Monarchs will take place as they are threatened by food source & habitat degradation. No need to know butterfly ID; training will be provided. Dress for hot humid weather and bring a hat, sunscreen, water, binoculars and field guides if you have them. Meet at Miami Whitewater Forest Visitor Center. No need to pre-register but for further info, contact Bob Nuhn at bobnuhn421@gmail.com or phone 513-742-3705. For volunteers ages 14 and up, Field Surveying (Miami Whitewater\Natural Resources)

Special Riders Program
Sat 7/6–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. No experience necessary. 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\Guest Exp Central]

Campbell Lakes Cleanup
Tue 7/9, 9 a.m.–noon

Cleaner is much better. Volunteers are needed to pick up litter left in fishing areas and by floods along the shoreline. Meet at Campbell Lakes Preserve parking lot. To volunteer, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up, Park Cleanup [Campbell Lake\C&P West]

Nature Art & Play Week
Tue–Sat 7/9–7/13, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Volunteers will welcome guests and assist with activities including nature-inspired games and art during this week designed to help nurture guests’ creativity and connection to nature. 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]

Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo
Fri 7/12, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m. (various shifts)

Head to Winton Harbor for the largest free outdoor educational event for children in the Midwest! This unique opportunity will pique kids’ interest in the great outdoors and recreational activities with more than 30 exhibitors and interactive activities. Last year thousands attended, so many volunteers are needed for fishing, boating and other event activities. You can also sign up to be a Zero Waste Goalie (more information on page 1 and 4). Shift information will be provided when you RSVP. To volunteer, contact Niki Marengo at nmarengo@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 278. Special Events [Winton Woods\Guest Exp Central]

Japanese Invasive Plant Control
Sat 7/13, 9–11 a.m.

Why do so many of our invasive plants come from Japan? Japanese stiltgrass tends to be one of our most inconspicuous invasives while Japanese

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.
chaff flower is a newcomer to our woods. Now is a great time to get a head start in managing their spread. Pesticide training is a plus. Meet at Shawnee Lookout/Waterhole Meadow. To volunteer, contact Adam McCosham at amccosham@greatparks.org or phone 513-978-7198. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Shawnee Lookout\C&P West].

Creek Week
Tue–Fri 7/16–7/19, 1–3 p.m.
Volunteers will welcome guests and assist with creek exploration to see what finds we can uncover. Bring a net if you have one, wear closed-toed shoes and come for some rock-flipping fun! Meet at Winton Woods/Spring Beauty Dell. To volunteer, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpreter Programs [Winton Woods\Education & Events]

Butterfly Sundae
Sun 7/21, 1–4 p.m.
Volunteers will welcome and interact with guests at stations. Children can complete a take-home butterfly craft and participate in a scavenger hunt. To top it off, guests will get to taste teeny-tiny old-fashioned ice cream sundaes, lemonade, iced tea and grilled corn at this outdoor summer festivity. Meet at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve/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]

Cincinnati Pops in the Park
Wed 7/24, 6:00 p.m.–9 p.m.
Thanks to the generous support of Great Parks Forever, Great Parks is presenting a free Cincinnati Pops Orchestra outdoor concert at Woodland Mound Park. Volunteers are needed to help answer questions about upcoming events and pass out park information at the Great Parks tent. Zero Waste Goalies are also needed at recycling stations (more information on page 1 and 4). Meet at the Great Parks tent near Weston Shelter. To volunteer, contact Liz Keer at lkeer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 285. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Special Events [Woodland Mound\Guest Exp East]

Trail Touchup Day
Thurs 7/25, 9 a.m.–noon
Lots of volunteers needed! We’ll be working on trail surfaces, removing old water bars and resolving erosion issues. Meet at the Timberlakes parking area. To volunteer, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Miami Whitewater\C&P West]

Rock & Fossil Fest
Sun 7/28, 1–4 p.m.
Volunteers will welcome guests and assist with activities involving geology. Guests can try hands-on games and activities, swap rocks or fossils or show off their collection in the “Exploration Zone.” The Dry Dredgers, an amateur rock and fossil organization, will be on hand to share great information and exhibit fossils. Meet at Winton Woods/Harbor Pavilion. To volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpreter Programs [Winton Woods\Education & Events]

Landscaping: Maintain Flower Beds & Pots
Recurring, now-10/31
Your help is needed watering, fertilizing and deadheading annual flower plantings. These areas, which are frequently viewed and photographed by guests, will shine thanks to you. More hands will lighten the load of this 3-day a week work! 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 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 some 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].

greatparks.org/volunteer
GrapeVINE Changes

Hi GrapeVINE readers! You probably noticed a change in the volunteer opportunities format. We thought we would try something new, and listed the volunteer opportunities in date order instead of the usual park order. We did this because more and more volunteers are reaching across park boundaries to support the park district. Date order is also the same format the Great Parks Event Guide now uses. In addition, date order is a big space saver, leaving room for short informational articles.

We’d like to know what you think. Please take a moment to give us your opinion by completing a very short three question survey at this link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GrapeVINESurvey

Thanks for all you do to support Great Parks!

Reducing our Plastic Waste

Shannon Stern, GIS Analyst

There are more than 15 water bottle filling stations located across Great Parks that can be found in pro shops, maintenance centers and a few visitor centers. The Great Parks water bottle refilling stations alone have saved about 130,000 water bottles since they were installed. That’s 5,420 cases of water! To put that in perspective, if you took each water bottle and laid them end to end, you would cover almost 17 miles, or the length of 240 football fields. Plastic water bottles require up to 700 years to dissolve, and unless melted and turned into something else, every single piece of plastic ever made is still around. If you don’t have a reusable water bottle, please consider getting one. How many more water bottles can we save by Earth Day 2020?

Zero Waste Goalie Training

Are you passionate about composting and recycling? Would you like to learn more and share this important information with the community? Then join us for Zero Waste Goalie Training.

Great Parks recently received a grant from Can’d Aid’s Crush it Crusade to increase our recycling and compost initiatives. We need you to help educate park guests about these important issues during park events like Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo and the Cincinnati Pops concert. It’s simple – attend a Zero Waste Goalie Training and then man a recycling station at a special event. You’ll be letting guests know which container to use for waste, recycling and compostable material.

There are two trainings scheduled and both will take place in the Winton Centre Auditorium: June 26 at 7 p.m. and July 2 at 9 a.m. To register, contact Great Parks Grant Writer Kara Schirmer at kschirmer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3549. Recycling [Training|Natural Resources].

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:

Tue 7/16, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Wed 8/14, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Registration closes one-week prior to training so don’t delay. Sign up on-line at: 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.