



## FRIENDS GROUP ROLES

UPDATED – 08/30/09

### Roles a friends group can fulfill:

- **Recruit, manage and recognize volunteers**
  - Recruit and manage friends group volunteers or manage the park's volunteer program
  - Examples:
    - The Mississippi River Fund created a citizen bird monitoring program at the Mississippi National Park and Recreation Area
    - The Friends of Acadia provide approximately 9,000 volunteer hours annually and fund two field crew leaders to organize volunteer activities in the park during the summer
    - The Grand Canyon NP Foundation funds the *Alien Invaders* program which provides volunteers to monitor and control exotic plant species and preserve and restore native plants in the park
    - The Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes NP provides volunteers to remove invasive plant species in endangered areas of the park
    - The Friends of Saguaro NP provide 150-200 volunteers and over 30,000 hours of volunteer service each year to the park
    - The John Muir Association sponsors the John Muir Association Conservation Awards annually to honor those whose work continues John Muir's legacy of environmental preservation – awards are given to individuals, nonprofits, businesses and environmental educators
    - The Friends of Crater Lake NP support volunteers that provide roving visitor services at overlooks along the rim in the park
    - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation provided work t-shirts for the park's Volunteers in Parks Program
    - The Friends of Congaree Swamp sponsors the *Order of the Cypress* award for park volunteers
    - The Glacier National Park Associates sponsors a volunteer day annually in the park
    - The Friends of Cuyahoga NP manage the park's volunteer program
- **Deliver programs and stage events**
  - Organize programs or events within (under a special use permit) or outside of parks
  - Provide food and beverages for events
  - Examples:

- The Friends of the Park sponsor an annual Memorial Day concert of the Chattanooga Symphony at the Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP
  - The Friends of the Lyndon B. Johnson NHP host the LBJ 100, a 100K bike ride, and 1K, 5K and 10K Fun Runs annually
  - The Friends of the Smokies funded a coordinator to plan events for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Smoky Mountains NP
  - The Friends of the Big South Fork host an annual story-telling festival in the park
  - The Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes NP offers an annual series of small, high-quality educational seminars
  - The Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway hosted a symposium to initiate the celebration of the park's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - The Friends of Apostle Islands NL sponsored the *Gaylord Nelson Wilderness Celebration*
  - The Friends of the Park hosted an open house for the newly-renovated Lookout Mountain Visitor Center at the Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP
  - The Friends of Moccasin Bend NP hosts a lecture series each fall at the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, Tennessee
  - The Island Alliance stages an annual regatta at Boston Harbor Islands NRA
  - The Friends of Valley Forge Park hosts symposiums on the Revolutionary War
  - The John Muir Association sponsors the Muir Birthday-Earth Day Celebration each year at Yosemite NP
  - The Island Alliance sponsored 45 days of free family programs in Boston Harbor Islands NRA including the Boston Children's Theater every Friday and jazz concerts every Sunday
  - The Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara sponsors special events each summer in the Carl Sandburg Home NHS such as *Rootabaga Stories* and *World of Carl Sandburg* performed by the Vagabond Players from the Flat Rock Playhouse
  - The Friends of Apostle Island NL fund the *Around the Archipelago* lecture series
- **Operate and maintain facilities and programs**
  - Assist the park with operation and maintenance of structures, visitor centers, visitor contact stations and programs
  - Examples:
    - The Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes NP administers the park's *Parks As Classrooms* Program
    - The Friends of Whiskeytown administers an *Artist-in-Residence* Program in the park

- The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation administers the *Healthy Kids/Healthy Parks* Program to help combat childhood obesity and engage children and their families in the park
  - The Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara provides volunteers to serve as goat caretakers for the historic herd at the Carl Sandburg Home NHS
  - The Friends of Apostle Islands NL have provided volunteers to allow the park to offer extended hours at the Bayfield Visitor Center
- **Provide support staff**
  - Hire staff to handle responsibilities that the park is not able to fulfill or provide funds to the park for them to hire non-permanent staff
  - Examples:
    - The Friends of Saguaro NP, the Friends of the Smokies and the Friends of Big Bend NP annually fund the *Teacher-Ranger-Teacher* program where area teachers serve as seasonal rangers in the parks for 6-8 weeks
    - The F.W. Vanderbilt Garden Association handles all of the garden maintenance and raises funds for all garden equipment and supplies at the Vanderbilt Mansion NHS
    - The Friends of the Park funded the park's first volunteer coordinator position for the Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP
    - The Glacier National Park Associates sponsors a 12-week backcountry ranger each year for the park
    - The Friends of Acadia fund summer Ridge Runner and Recreation Technician positions for the park
    - The Friends of Apostle Islands NL funded a summer ranger for Meyers Beach and a Student Conservation Association intern
    - The Glacier National Park Associates funds two internships each summer for area high school students to help with the park's greenhouse and nursery
    - The Friends of Whiskeytown sponsored a Student Conservation Association intern to undertake trail work on the James Carr Trail
    - The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes purchased a used tractor and Bush Hog and are training volunteers to maintain the historic agricultural landscapes in the park
- **Educate visitors and neighbors**
  - Examples:
    - The Pea Ridge NMP Foundation helped fund *Thunder in the Ozarks*, the park orientation film, and new audio visual equipment to view this film in the park's visitor center
    - The Friends of Big Bend NP is raising \$150,000 for a new visitor orientation film for the park

- The Friends of the Smokies hosted science teacher enrichment workshops for North Carolina teachers at the park
  - The Lassen Park Foundation raised \$500,000 to produce a new orientation film and exhibits for a park visitor center
  - The Friends of Virgin Islands NP sponsors a summer seminar series on subjects such as green building and native plants
  - The Glacier National Park Fund developed *Ehikes* on the park's website to provide an on-line "hiking experience" for park trails
  - The Yosemite Fund funds publication of the *Yosemite Guide*, the park's primary visitor information publication
  - The South Florida National Parks Trust installed nine new wayside exhibits in both English and Spanish in Everglades NP
  - The Friends of Whiskeytown purchased new trail signage for the park
  - The Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes NP publishes oral histories of the Ainahou Ranch and developed educational materials for the park's Junior Ranger Program
  - The Yosemite Fund developed six regional day hike maps for the park
  - The Friends of Apostle Island NL publish the park's newsletter
  - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation funded environmental education workshops for local teachers in partnership with the Sierra Club
  - The Yosemite Fund developed a comprehensive exhibit on Yosemite's climbing history with historic photos, original equipment and text narrative at the Yosemite Museum
  - The Friends of Congaree Swamp sponsor a spring wildflower hike
  - The Great Smoky Mountains Association funded development of a series of educational video podcasts
- **Educate and involve youth**
  - Examples
    - The Lassen Park Foundation funds camping trips and camping supplies for organizations to bring disadvantaged youth to Lassen Volcanic NP
    - The Friends of the Park funded a master teacher to develop on-line teaching materials for teachers and students focused on the Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP
    - The Friends of Virgin Islands NP host over one hundred 8-14 year-old students each summer for three-day eco-camps in the park
    - The Friends of Acadia coordinates the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps to improve park trails, clear vistas and other projects in the park and funds salaries, work boots, t-shirts and scholarships
    - The Grand Canyon NP Foundation funds youth volunteers from 10 to 17 years old to assist park biologists for 2-4 weeks through the *Youth Biologist* program

- The Friends of Virgin Islands NP hold the *School Kids in the Park* (SKIP) program each year to familiarize VI students with the park
  - The South Florida National Parks Trust developed materials in Spanish and Haitian Creole for the park's Junior Ranger Program
  - The Grand Teton NP Foundation funds the *Youth Conservation Program* each summer to hire 16 to 19 year olds to build trails, install bear-proof containers, repair park facilities, etc.
  - The South Florida National Parks Trust teaches thousands of school children each year about environmental education through overnight camping trips and environmental education programs to Everglades, Biscayne, Big Cypress and Dry Tortugas NPs
  - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation funds the park's *Parks As Classrooms* Program
  - The Yosemite Fund supports printing of Junior Ranger books in English and Spanish
  
- **Engage gateway communities**
  - Examples:
    - The Friends of the Park developed a *Story Book* of visitor's and park neighbor's personal memories of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP
    - The Friends of Acadia helped create and fund the *Island Explorer*, a fare-free, seasonal, propane-powered bus system through the park and gateway communities
    - The Friends of Big Bend NP is funding replacement of existing lighting in the Chisos Basin with energy efficient lighting to reduce night sky disturbance surrounding the park
    - The Friends of Congaree Swamp are working with the River Alliance, American Rivers, the Coastal Conservation League and the Congaree Land Trust to develop the Congaree River Blue Trail and the Wateree River Blueway
    - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation developed *Design Guidelines for Adjacent Parkway Properties*, a publication to help improve protection of the park's viewshed
    - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation funds a small grants program to support partnership efforts in NC and VA that benefit the park
    - The Friends of the Smokies helped fund the first-ever *Great Smoky Mountains Sustainable Tourism Summit* to help encourage green development and regional sustainable tourism
    - The Friends of the Park are working with the Trust for Public Land to add a Civil War history layer to the Hamilton County, Tennessee, GIS land use database
  
- **Build awareness**
  - Develop park marketing and branding for both the park and the friends group

- Examples:
  - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation developed comprehensive media kits with prepared stories, articles and editorial opinions
  - The Sequoia Parks Foundation takes a group of artists and writers to a backcountry site in the park each summer so that they can develop materials that highlight the beauty of the park
  - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation has an online store where they sell a variety of Foundation products and products from Eastern National and Forever Resorts (the park's concessionaires)
  - The Friends of Andersonville purchased billboards along I-75 advertising the park and the National POW Museum
  - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation developed a collection of licensed merchandise that it sells at Mast General Store locations along the Blue Ridge Parkway
  - The Island Alliance raised funds to develop a branding/marketing campaign to promote Boston Harbor Islands NRA
  - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation developed a licensing program for *Share the Journey* to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway
  
- **Donate equipment, services and materials**
  - Acquire and donate equipment or services to the park
  - Examples:
    - The Friends of Acadia purchased two wheelchair-accessible horse-drawn carriages for visitors with physical disabilities to use to see the park
    - The Friends of the Smokies facilitated donation of four Prius hybrid vehicles from Toyota to the park
    - The Pea Ridge NMP Foundation purchased and donated to the park two coats worn by Commanding General Samuel R. Curtis at the Battle of Pea Ridge
    - The Friends of Big Bend NP provided funds to purchase a computer and software to allow park staff to produce and edit podcasts and other multi-media materials
    - The Friends of Big Bend NP pay for rent and utilities for a pre-school that serves children of park staff to encourage young families to remain in the park
    - The Grand Teton NP Foundation, the Friends of Apostle Islands NL and the Yosemite Fund purchased and installed bear-proof storage lockers for front-country campsites in these parks
    - The Friends of the Smokies purchased a new search and rescue vehicle for the park
    - The Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes NP raised funds to purchase tents for the park to use for public events
    - The Friends of Big South Fork provide horses, tack and veterinary services to the park for use with mounted ranger patrols

- The South Florida National Parks Trust donated a 21-foot boat to Biscayne NP to support the park's volunteer program
  - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation funded printing for the *Preliminary Alternatives* for the Moses H. Cone Memorial Park Development Management Plan
  - The South Florida National Parks Trust donated two wildlife viewing scopes overlooking Florida Bay at Everglades NP
  - The Yellowstone Park Foundation donated new firefighting equipment to the Yellowstone Fire Suppression Department
  - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation paid for an archaeological study for the planning of an education shelter/pavilion at Linville Falls
  - The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes donated funds to the park which will be used to build eight nesting platforms
  - The Friends of Congaree Swamp donated funds to the park to purchase a pontoon boat for interpretation and research in the park
  - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation donated 20 automatic electronic defibrillators and two training units to the park
  - The South Florida Parks Trust donated a submerged camera to view sea life behind the Everglades NP visitor center at Shark Valley
  - The Yosemite Fund donated uniforms and upgraded equipment for the park's mounted ranger patrols
- **Develop and rehabilitate facilities**
    - Partner with the NPS for capital improvement projects
    - Examples:
      - The Friends of Minidoka is designing, planning and constructing the Issei Memorial in the park
      - The Friends of Big Bend NP provided funding to develop architectural drawings for a new park auditorium
      - The Friends of the Smokies provided funds toward the construction of the Twin Creeks Science Center in the park
      - The Glacier National Park Fund is developing a wheelchair-accessible raised wildlife viewing platform in the park
      - The Friends of Fire Island NS are raising funds for the park's first visitor center
      - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation raised funds for new exhibits and expansion of a new visitor contact station at Waterrock Knob
      - The Great Basin National Park Foundation is raising funds for a Great Basin Visitor/Education Center to house multiple agencies
      - The Yellowstone Park Foundation is repairing one to three deteriorated campgrounds each year for the park
      - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation is raising funds through the *When Nature Calls* campaign to build two new convenience

stations at Bass Lake in the Moses H. Cone Memorial Park and at Graveyard Fields

- The First Flight Foundation raised \$400,000 to restore the Wright Brothers monument and \$2,000,000 to construct the semi-permanent First Flight Centennial Pavilion for the Wright Brothers NM centennial celebration in 2003
- The Friends of Cape Lookout NS is raising \$500,000 to prepare a detailed *Historic Structures Report* and to repair and make safety improvements to open the park's lighthouse for regular public use
- The South Florida Parks Trust funded development of an underwater marine trail linking six submerged shipwrecks in Biscayne NP and created detailed site maps and educational guides for this trail
- The Island Alliance is raising \$4,000,000 for the Boston Harbor Islands NRA Harbor Park Pavilion visitor contact station along the new Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway

- **Acquire land**

- Raise funds and work with a land trust to acquire property or easements for the park
- Examples:
  - The Save Historic Antietam Foundation collaborated with the Maryland Environmental Trust to obtain easements on more than 3,000 acres within the park boundary
  - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation provided funds to the Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust to acquire conservation easements along the park to protect its scenic viewshed
  - The Guildford Battleground Company provided funds to the Piedmont Land Conservancy to acquire 16 acres of the most threatened, most intact and most important battlefield lands, which were since added to Guildford Courthouse NMP

- **Undertake research**

- Examples:
  - The Friends of Congaree Swamp sponsor grants from \$500-\$1,500 to encourage research within the park
  - The Glacier Park Fund coordinates the *Citizen Science in Glacier High Country* program to gather data on mountain goats, Clark's Nutcrackers and pikas
  - The Friends of Saguaro NP funded Gila Monster research in the park
  - The Grand Canyon NP Foundation funded a multi-year research and monitoring study of wildlife along the Colorado River corridor
  - The Yosemite Fund is funding a trail use assessment for the park to update information about visitor needs related to backcountry trails

- The Yellowstone Park Foundation raised funds to support a study focused on evaluating wolverine status, ecology and behavior
  - The Friends of the Dunes organizes a bird count in Great Sand Dunes NPP each year just after Christmas
  - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation undertook an automobile and motorcycle survey and a sound survey in the park to help park resource managers with transportation planning
  - The Great Basin NP Foundation created an oral history project to interview residents, transcribe interviews, compile photo documentation and prepare a historic study for the park
  - The Yosemite Fund is documenting the last occupied Indian village in Yosemite Valley to protect these archaeological resources
  - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation raised \$200,000 to undertake an economic impact study of the park and a future comfort station at Moses H. Cone Memorial Park
  - The Grand Teton NP Foundation supports a variety of wildlife research projects on wolves, bears, big horn sheep, pikas and cougars for the park
  - The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation supports an archival project to obtain oral histories and family photos and archive news stories, essays and journalistic photos to inventory experiences of the park's visitors
- **Protect and rehabilitate park resources**
  - Examples:
    - The Friends of Big Bend NP donated shade trees for two park campgrounds
    - The Mississippi River Fund planted 5,700 trees and 8,000 native plants at the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
    - The Friends of Big Bend NP provided funding to rehabilitate wetlands in the Rio Grande Valley
    - The Grand Canyon NP Foundation funded development of a feasibility study for reintroduction of river otter into the park
    - The South Florida National Parks Trust helps protect sea turtle nests at Biscayne NP
    - The South Florida National Parks Trust donated markers for Florida Bay to protect Everglades NP's critical habitat from boaters
    - The Yosemite Fund is developing a set of *existing conditions* drawings for the Yosemite Museum to serve as a base for architects and engineers to plan future museum rehabilitation
    - Friends of Whiskeytown collected and archived historic papers, films and photos of President Kennedy's 1963 dedication of Whiskeytown Dam and created a DVD recounting the event

- The Friends of Vicksburg NMP and Campaign funded replacement and reconditioning of sculptures, monuments, markers and tablets in the park
- **Develop and restore trails**
  - Examples:
    - The Lassen Park Foundation is raising funds through the *Reach the Peak* campaign to widen the Lassen Peak Trail, create a new trail from Manzanita Lake and develop a new loop trail at the crater
    - The C&O Canal Association provided funding to the park to prepare an Environmental Assessment for restoration of a portion of the towpath trail
    - The Glacier Park Fund is reconstructing a trail in the Many Glacier Valley to make it accessible to wheelchairs
    - The Friends of Acadia funds the *Acadia Trails Forever* program to support maintenance of the park's 130 miles of trail
    - The Grand Canyon NP Foundation is coordinating development of the Grand Canyon Greenway, a 73-mile network of handicapped-accessible bike and pedestrian trails on the North and South Rims
    - The Friends of the Smokies rehabilitated two park trails, Alum Cave and Boulevard, damaged by Hurricane Opal
    - The Friends of the Smokies established a *Trails Forever* endowment to fund a permanent trail maintenance work crew to maintain the park's 800+ miles of trail
    - The Yosemite Fund established the *Legendary Valley Trails* program to restore trails in the Yosemite Valley
    - The Yellowstone Park Foundation established a \$2 million *Yellowstone Trails Fund* to restore the park's trail system
    - The Friends of Crater Lake NP maintain and build trail in the park
- **Raise capital**
  - Serve as a receiver of funds for the park and park projects
  - Examples
    - The Crater Lake Trust, the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, the Friends of Big Bend NP and the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation sell license plates for each of their parks
    - The Friends of Big Bend NP raised \$250,000+ to develop new educational exhibits for the park's recently reopened visitor center
    - The Grand Teton NP Foundation raised \$13.6 million to match \$8 million provided by Congress to build the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center
    - The Friends of Crater Lake NP helped establish a license plate for the park that funds an endowment to support a new Crater Lake Science and Learning Center and supplies volunteers to sell the plates in the park

- The Blue Ridge Foundation is building two endowments for Moses H. Cone Memorial Park – one to support program activities at the site and one to preserve the park’s carriage trails
  - The Glacier National Park Associates raises donations from backcountry users to purchase supplies and materials to improve backcountry hiking and camping
  - The Friends of Great Smoky Mountains NP are raising \$4,000,000 for the *Trails Forever* Endowment to support trail restoration
  - The Yellowstone Park Foundation established the \$2,000,000 *Yellowstone Trails Fund* as an endowment to support trail restoration in the park
- **Inform elected officials and the public about park issues**
  - Advocate for the park with elected officials and the general public
  - Examples:
    - The Save Historic Antietam Foundation worked with local elected officials to establish a special zoning category around the battlefield
    - The Friends of the Congaree Swamp oppose new levees along the Congaree River

**Roles a friends group can not fulfill:**

- Speaking for the NPS, the superintendent or park staff
- Dictating to the superintendent or park staff how to manage the park
- Organize around a negative stance or contrary to the park or management objectives and mission of the park and the NPS
- Operate sales outlets or sell products within park boundaries without following appropriate NPS policies
  - Only Cooperating Associations can operate interpretive bookstores within park boundaries
  - Other sales opportunities are subject to Concessions policies or temporary use permits