

Lake Sidney Lanier Volunteer Program

The volunteer program at Lake Sidney Lanier was initiated in 1999 to help improve the parks with the help of volunteer labor. A Volunteer Village was established to provide a place for volunteers to stay while working at Lake Lanier. The Volunteer Village contained seven full service camp sites with sewer, 50 amp electric hookup, picnic tables, grills, and lantern holders. Internet and phone service is available at the volunteer's expense. The village was expanded in 2012 to 14 campsites, many of which are secluded within a forest setting. Also provided for the volunteers is a picnic shelter for group gatherings and two laundry rooms with free access to washers and dryers. Access to shopping and restaurants are within minutes to this secure gated village.

The purpose of the Volunteer Village is to provide a central location and staging area for volunteers who desire to camp at Lake Sidney Lanier. In exchange for free camping privileges, volunteers are asked to provide 20 hours per couple, per week. Help is needed throughout the year for promoting water safety by staffing booths at local trade shows, boat shows, fairs, festivals and schools. Volunteers also assist with annual pass sales, office filing, trail maintenance, bluebird box installation, fish attractor placement, water quality testing, and traffic control at some of our busiest parks.

At the present time Lake Lanier has sixteen on-site and eight off-site volunteers working. These volunteers play a crucial role in the successful operation of the Lanier Project. As such they are selected according to their qualifications, skills, and experience as they relate to various volunteer projects. All volunteers living in the volunteer village, and the off-site volunteers that may interact with the public without the direct supervision of a park ranger, undergo a background check as part of their application process. Once a volunteer is approved to start work, they will receive a volunteer uniform, project orientation and Volunteer Manual for their review. They will also receive training in project safety requirements, Verbal Judo and traffic control.

The construction cost to build the volunteer village with all the amenities mentioned above is approximately 8k per site. Operational costs are absorbed through project's O&M cost. The value gained from leveraging volunteers out ways the operational cost by far.

For questions about the volunteer program at Lake Sidney Lanier please contact the volunteer coordinator, at 770-945-9531 ext. 281.