



Volunteers-In-Parks Program

Volunteerism at Grant-Kohrs Ranch has been increasing since 2004. At that time we professionally trained our collateral duty VIP coordinator, set up tracking, recruiting, recognition and safety programs. Participation has grown steadily, more than 40% over 3 years, as permanent staff embrace the benefits of volunteer skills and enthusiasm and expand involvement across all aspects of the park operations, from ranching chores to museum management.



2007 Volunteer Program Highlights:



Business Sense:

In 2007, 82 Grant-Kohrs Ranch volunteers contributed 6800+ hours for an addition of 3.4 FTE at a value of \$125,000. This represents a 30% addition to park staffing and included core work such as providing interpretive programs, branding cattle and haying historic fields. The park contributed \$6,700 to this program for an 18:1 return on its investment.

Service Sense:

Summer interpretation volunteers presented a variety of interpretive programs including, house tours, the cowboy's life, and a new open range ranch tour. They staffed three major events and were the orientation glue at the park's modest visitor center. Alongside the 6 permanent and seasonal rangers, they helped the park receive a 94% score in visitor understanding and a 98% score in satisfaction with park programs.



Community Sense:

In 2004 we initiated a new *winter host* volunteer experience, which in 2007, continues as a premier opportunity for local citizens to join us in our quiet season at the ranch. These volunteers do an amazing job of keeping the visitor center open every day, contributing 35% of the winter coverage. They met and greeted visitors to the park, keeping the center's wood-burning stove stoked and the building operational. This allowed other staff time to complete educational projects and prepare for the summer season, while providing a warm welcome to our winter visitors.



We are also very privileged to have a dedicated group of 25 volunteers from the **Montana Draft Horse Association**, who bring their teams of draft horses as far as 150 miles one way, to work the ranch's fields and assist us twice a year in our historic haying demonstrations. These volunteers along with all our other volunteers play an integral part in our operations. With their help we are able to provide the best experiences we can for our visitors.

A legacy of inspiration:

To show our thanks and appreciation for all the time and effort our volunteers give we end each year with a volunteer appreciation banquet. We host a big cookout and staff provide an excellent meal with festive touches like fresh flowers from the cutting garden on every table in the historic dairy barn. We finish the evening with an awards ceremony where all our volunteers are presented with a gift to show our great appreciation for all their hard work. In 2007, we held this dinner in conjunction with our haying activity and 45 of our 82 volunteers attended. Five of our volunteers achieved the 2000 hour mark, an amazing achievement requiring 3-5 summers of accumulated hours, and two of our haying couples marked their 10th year of organizing and executing the historic haying demonstration. In addition, thanks to an aggressive new safety program, ALL our volunteers had a safe and incident free season. Our family grows larger every year and Grant-Kohrs volunteers inspire us all.

More Information: Laura Rotegard- Superintendent (406) 846-2070 x 221 www.nps.gov/grko.