

# Volunteer Opportunities in Denali National Park and Preserve

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## Interpretive Naturalist

Volunteer researches, develops, prepares and presents educational programs to park visitors and provides information at the Visitor Centers. A background in natural/cultural history and public speaking experience is preferred. Volunteers are needed from about mid May to early September. A valid driver's license is required.

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## Backcountry

Volunteers staff visitor center, interact with backcountry users, educate visitors of safe hiking and minimum impact techniques, and issue backcountry permits/bear resistant food containers. (60%); Volunteers will also conduct backcountry patrols in the Denali Wilderness, (40%). Special projects may be assigned if a volunteer desires. Volunteers are needed from mid May to early September. Knowledge and experience of common hiking, camping, and outdoor skills is preferred.

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## Resource Management

Volunteers are needed to assist researchers and resource managers in a variety of field and office work from early June through early September. Work projects may include wolf and golden eagle research, bear-human conflict management, seed collection, exotic species removal, water quality monitoring, glacier monitoring, and native plant revegetation. Occasional flying in small aircraft may be necessary. Working in cold, wet and windy weather is common. A background in biology and experience in hiking and backpacking is preferred. A valid driver's license is required.

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## Campground Hosts

Hosts are needed at Teklanika and Wonder Lake Campgrounds. Hosts inform visitors about campground rules, bear safety, food storage, general park information and shuttle bus activity. Special campground projects can be assigned if volunteer desires. Hosts must have their own housing, either a mobile home or trailer. Propane, water and trash service are provided at both campgrounds. Fuel for generators will also be provided. Hosts are needed from late May to early September at Teklanika, and mid June to late August at Wonder Lake. Dates are negotiable. Pets are discouraged. ***Returnees often fill these positions.***

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## Sled Dog Kennels

Winter season only. Volunteers provide assistance to the Kennels Manager in the care and feeding of the park's working sled dog team, conduct park patrols to remote cabins, repair and maintain the associated sled rigging and dog harness.  
Only 2 positions are filled and are usually filled by returnees.

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## Mountaineering

Volunteers assist the Denali Mountaineering Rangers conducting patrols on Denali. The Volunteer must provide a climbing resume, detailing knowledge, skills, and experience in glacier travel, crevasse rescue, winter camping, mountaineering, and arctic survival.  
***Contact: South District Supervisory Ranger at (907) 733-2231***

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Maintenance Division

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Volunteers may assist with construction and maintenance of trails.

Visitor Services

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Volunteers are needed to assist with the Visitor Center staff in a variety of duties, however, the primary function of the volunteer is to provide information to the park's visitors. Answering the telephone, copying documents and some data entry may be performed as well. Position requires extensive visitor contact.

Housing

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Housing is limited. Government housing may consist of either a shared small two room cabin or a tent frame unit. Cabins are plumbed for cold water in summer. All units have electricity. Bedding and basic kitchen utensils are provided as well as a central shower, laundry and restroom facilities. There are three trailer pads located at headquarters for volunteer use and Teklanika and Wonder lake Campgrounds.

Funding

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VIP's must pay for their own transportation to and from the park. A stipend is not a condition of employment and may or may not be available.

Training

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Training length/type varies depending upon the position. For interpretive and backcountry positions there is a formal two week training session. Other positions are provided with on the job training as necessary.

Uniform

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A uniform will be provided to employees routinely meeting the public.

How to Apply

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Visit Denali's website for current volunteer opportunities at [www.nps.gov/dena](http://www.nps.gov/dena) or visit the national volunteer web site at [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov)

Contact

This is not a comprehensive opportunity list. Volunteer opportunities occur spontaneously as needs are recognized and funding is made available. To find out more information on the volunteer opportunities available, please write to the coordinator at:

VIP Program Coordinator  
Denali National Park and Preserve  
P. O. Box 9  
Denali Park, AK 99755

Or call (907) 683-9543, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.  
Or via the Internet at [mark\\_motsko@nps.gov](mailto:mark_motsko@nps.gov) . Please check our website for current opportunities.