



Preserve America Stewards

Preserve America Stewards is a designation program that recognizes stewardship programs that have demonstrated a successful use of volunteer time and commitment in order to help care for our cultural heritage. Through such programs, historic and archaeological site stewards in many parts of the country keep a watchful eye on important and remote resources and alert authorities when such sites are threatened by thoughtless vandalism or other threats. Other volunteers serve as interpretive docents, assist with repairs, and help out with research activities. Still others keep historic places inviting and free of trash, maintain the landscaping that makes them attractive and welcoming to visitors, and otherwise offer their time and talent to help preserve and present our heritage.

Potential Preserve America Stewards programs apply to be recognized at the national level using an application form and guidance materials made available through the Preserve America Web site (www.preserveamerica.gov). Government entities (federal, tribal, state, and local), non-profit organizations, and businesses are eligible to apply. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and other partner agencies implement this program on behalf of the White House.

To be designated, applicants must demonstrate that their programs:

- Provide individual volunteers with opportunities to contribute in direct and tangible ways to the preservation, protection, and promotion of historic properties;
- Address an otherwise unfilled need in heritage preservation through the use of volunteer efforts; and
- Demonstrate innovative and creative use of volunteer assistance in areas such as youth involvement, volunteer training, public education, and public/private partnerships.

Recognized organizations and agencies will receive a certificate of recognition as well as a letter of congratulations signed by First Lady Laura Bush, similar to the existing Preserve America Community recognition program. The organizations and agencies will also be listed in an online directory, with links to their own Web sites, contact information, and information for potentially interested volunteers about getting involved.

In addition to the certificate and letter from the White House, benefits of recognition and designation as a Preserve America Steward organization or program will include the following:

- Listing in a joint Preserve America/Take Pride in America national database of volunteer heritage resource stewardship opportunities, which provides an opportunity for public attention as well as a means to recruit additional volunteers;
- Use of the Preserve America logo in public outreach and promotional activities;
- Enhanced access to existing technical assistance resources that may be helpful in the development, management, and ongoing support of a local volunteer stewardship program;

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- Periodic selection in a “Program Highlights” feature on the Preserve America and Take Pride in America Web sites, which contain brief summaries, news, and particularly innovative or creative features of listed volunteer stewardship programs; and
- Consideration for further national recognition through existing annual volunteer service awards sponsored by the federal government through Take Pride in America and USA Freedom Corps.

Based on available resources, benefits of such recognition in the future may also include:

- Networking and information sharing support;
- Financial assistance, and additional technical assistance through training opportunities and publications; and
- Eligibility for other national achievement awards.