Happy New Year, FRIENDS!

Celebrating Successes and Planning for more:

The winter months offer a time to slow down and reflect on the work accomplished the past year and make plans for what's to come.

Thank you for all you do!
All of us at FRIENDS

News from the Parkway

Safety First

VOLUNTEER WORK WITH A PARTNER IS ALWAYS SAFER
Now that most Parkway visitor facilities are closed and fewer travelers are on the Parkway, there is even more reason to look for a partner when volunteering on trails, overlooks, and other BRP locations. During the warmer season there are more people out enjoying the Parkway but as it gets colder, visitors are few and far between. So even though we encourage working with others at all times, in busier months the likelihood is low of having an accident without help passing at some point. But during the inactive months, the risk increases. So having multiple volunteers working together could make a world of difference if something went wrong. If your volunteer work takes you off trails and other visited areas, risks increase exponentially. This photo shows a volunteer climbing out of a gorge where he and another FRIENDS volunteer had just retrieved a wildlife camera. The steep climb continued as shown for approximately 500 feet of elevation change, making travel extremely difficult. A slip could leave one in a predicament if volunteering alone.

Continue with your highly appreciated work, but do it safely!

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Chapter News Briefs

**Peaks of Otter Chapter**

Joe Robinson is stepping down as the Peaks of Otter Chapter Chair. Joe has done a great job for the past year and we’re grateful for his leadership.

If you live in the Peaks of Otter area and are interested in the open position (see info below), please contact the office at 540-772-2992 or email Audrey Pearson at audrey_pearson@friendsbrp.org.

**Chapter Chair:**

The **Peaks of Otter Chapter of Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway** is looking for a new leader to work closely with NPS staff to ensure the Peaks of Otter area of the Parkway is the preserved, protected and enhanced.

**This position requires:**

- Working closely with NPS to identify volunteer projects
- Communicating effectively with chapter members

**Description of Activities:**
Working closely with Friends Home Office and communicating with NPS staff and the local chapter
Building a Steering Committee of like-minded volunteers who want to serve the park.

Chapter leads set the tone for the chapter. You are not required to hold monthly meetings but can if desired. You can build your steering committee based on activities the chapter is interested in.

Roanoke Chapter

The Roanoke Chapter celebrated the holidays with their annual Holiday Party at The Quarter Restaurant. They kicked off the new year by:

- Signing up volunteers to work the Blue Ridge Marathon in April
- Taking inventory of their chapter tools to get ready for upcoming work days
- Purchasing a sprayer for NPS District office
- And having a chapter meeting with a presentation by Steve Gardner, a Virginia Master Naturalist and new FRIENDS volunteer, titled "Climate Reality"

Fisher Peak Chapter

The Fisher Peak Chapter wrapped up 2019 with a steering committee meeting. They discussed activities from the year and made plans to prepare for 2020. Look for more work at the Music Center, Alternative Breaks, coordinating activities with local schools and Parkway maintenance.
On January 20th, the High Country Chapter, NPS staff and students from the App State ACT program honored Martin Luther King, Jr. with a day of service. The group
tackled the two remaining sections of the Julian Price Campground. They cleared leaves and down tree branches.

Next month, the App State Sustainability & Environmental Education Club will send volunteers to join FRIENDS volunteers to install water bars on the Green Knob Trail at MP 295.9. This will help slow and divert water coming off Green Knob to reduce sediment flowing into Sims Pond and Price Lake.

The chapter is also working with a local sporting goods store to support efforts to remove graffiti around the High Country area.

Balsam Chapter

Our newest chapter is off and running so they are ready to get to work this spring! A special thank you to FRIENDS volunteer Neal Lipham for helping the chapter acquire the tools they will need to maintain their section of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Thank you to Sam Kilby, Store Manager of Lowe's #0470 for giving a great discount. Thanks to Tanya Poole, the Chapter Chair for helping to organize this and to haul it all!

Lowe’s employees, Justin Lovingood and Jeremy Bryson, were a wonderful help with this large transaction as well.

Pictured from left to right: Neal Lipham, Tanya Poole and Justin Lovingood. Photo Credit: Amanda Bryson
Volunteers by the Numbers
Time frame: National Park Service Fiscal Year
October 2019 - September 2020

Volunteers with 50 + Hours
We congratulate the following volunteers:

Aubrey Arrington  Ken Carpenter  Carol Whiteside
George Blanar     Pete Lascell    Libby Wilcox

Your name next?

Keep reporting your hours!

Report Volunteer Hours

Volunteer Hours by Group
Have you been out on the Parkway working?
Do you have hours to report?

- Email them to: staff@friendsbrp.org
- Mail them to: PO Box 20986, Roanoke, VA 24018
Or click the button below to send them through the Google form

NOTE: If you are part of a chapter, check with your chapter chair about how to enter your hours. They may be sending them in for you.

Report Volunteer Hours

Volunteer Incentive Program

FRIENDS has a volunteer incentive program to recognize the outstanding work our volunteers do for the love of the Parkway.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours Per Calendar Year</th>
<th>Recognition Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50 hours</td>
<td>A set of Parkway note cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 hours</td>
<td>A Parkway print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 hours</td>
<td>FRIENDS Umbrella</td>
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<tr>
<td>250+ hours</td>
<td>National Park Service Park Pass</td>
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Read more about it in the volunteer manual. Click the button below:

Volunteer Manual

Wondering what activities to count as volunteer hours?

Review the FRIENDS Volunteer Hour Guidelines to make sure you are getting credit for your hard work!

FRIENDS Volunteer Hour Guidelines

Help Wanted

Volunteers Needed: Adopters for Cemeteries, Overlooks and Trails

View CEMETERY List

I'm interested in adopting a CEMETERY!
"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

–Elizabeth Andrew

Upcoming Events

For a full listing of Parkway events visit the Parkway Events Calendar or the FRIENDS Events Calendar.

Are you a member of FRIENDS?

As a FRIENDS volunteer, you give your TIME for the love of the park!

But have you ever wondered how the vistas are restored or the demonstration gardens are funded?

Our members support the work of NPS staff and FRIENDS volunteers. Every year we create a list of funding requests that we hope to fulfill. Gifts from our annual members make that happen.

For $40 a year you can become a member of FRIENDS and help the park and other volunteers!

Become a Member

List of Current FRIENDS Member Benefits

Volunteer Resources
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<th>Volunteer Manual</th>
<th>Report Volunteer Hours</th>
<th>Volunteer Service Agreement Form</th>
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<td>FRIENDS Volunteer Hour Guidelines</td>
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Click the links below to quickly access resources:

JOIN
DONATE
VOLUNTEER

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