

Dear Friend:

Thank you for supporting the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park. We hope you will renew your membership, or join us for the first time, using the enclosed application. Members receive a discount card for merchandise sales in the Park Office.

Pine Grove Furnace State Park receives close to half a million visitors each year. That's a lot of activity for a park with less than 700 acres! The park has increasingly turned to the *Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park* as a way to help maintain quality educational and recreational programs at this busy place in the South Mountains.

One of our primary goals is to raise money for additional improvements in the park. Our fundraisers include the Fall Furnace Fest in October (including the pumpkin float at Fuller Lake and the Hairy Hand story); the Iron Run half-marathon & Charcoal Challenge 5k run/walk in June; sale of firewood at the campground; and sale of merchandise at the Park Office and during special events. Please see the reverse of this page and the enclosed brochure for 2017 dates of major volunteer events.

We continue to cut, split and stack wood for firewood sales at the campground – a special thank you to the dedicated volunteers who help us with that ongoing and time-consuming task. The Friends group also supports Earth Day, National Public Lands Day, and the Woodsy Owl Weekend by supplying grilled items as part of a potluck lunch for volunteers. We are grateful for the many volunteers who help to maintain trails and bridges, remove invasive plant species, and staff special events like Fall Furnace Festival.

In 2016, we worked with volunteers and partner groups to repair Mountain Creek Trail which parallels Old Railroad Bed Road between the two lakes. A major part of the project was the purchase and installation of a fifty-five-foot hiking bridge across the creek in the middle of the trail. If you haven't had a chance to see the sturdy new bridge yet, you can find photos on our Facebook page – and of course, we hope you'll make use of the new trail and bridge for many years to come.

Your membership will help to ensure that Pine Grove Furnace State Park continues to be one of the best parks in Pennsylvania. We hope to see you at the park throughout 2017.



Andre Weltman, Chairman
Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park is organized as a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). PPFF is a 501(c)(3) organization registered with the PA Dept. of State; registration information may be obtained by calling toll-free within PA 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Visit us on Facebook, or at our website: www.PineGroveFriends.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
at Pine Grove Furnace State Park for 2017

Mark these 2017 dates on your calendars!

Earth Day – Saturday, April 22: Volunteers will begin work on Mountain Creek Trail improvements and other tasks to get the park ready for the season. Afterwards, we will have a potluck lunch with burgers & hotdogs grilled by the Friends group – lunch participants should bring a covered dish to share.

Woody Owl Weekend – weekend of May 19-21: Two days of free camping (overnight on May 19 and May 20) in exchange for one morning (Saturday May 20) of volunteering in the park. A fun family weekend! Please contact the Park Office for details.

6th Annual Iron Run and Charcoal Challenge – Saturday, June 10: A half-marathon trail race and a 5k run or walk to raise funds for projects supported by the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace. Participate as a volunteer or as a runner. Racer registration will be available beginning in February 2016 at www.RunReg.com.

National Public Lands Day – Saturday, September 30: Volunteers will work on Mountain Creek Trail and other tasks around the park. Afterwards, we will have a potluck lunch with burgers & hotdogs grilled by the Friends group – lunch participants should bring a covered dish to share.

Fall Furnace Fest – weekend of October 21-22: Join us for a two-day family oriented event with live music, craft & food vendors, history demonstrations, hay wagon rides, pumpkin carving, scarecrow making, and the legendary story of the “Hairy Hand” (on Saturday evening). Most activities are free. Volunteers are needed: please email PGFvolunteers@gmail.com.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are not just limited to helping at the park during the specific volunteer events. Throughout the year volunteers are needed to work on new or ongoing park projects and environmental education programs. Whether you are one person or 25, we can use your help. Please call the Park Office to set-up a volunteer work day and talk about possible projects: 717-486-7174.

Volunteer Registration: The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has created a *Conservation Volunteer Database* as a way to solicit volunteers for state parks and keep track of their time. This is an important tool for Pine Grove Furnace to document the number of volunteer hours throughout the year. To sign up as a volunteer at Pine Grove Furnace or any other state park, visit the DCNR website and complete the volunteer application at www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park, a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, was formed in 2010 to foster volunteerism and recreational and historical activities at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. As a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, donations to the Friends are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is registered with the PA Department of State; registration information may be obtained by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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