

Dear Friends:

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. Members receive a discount card for merchandise sales in the State 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 group 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. Annual fundraisers include Fall Furnace Fest the weekend of October 20-21 (with the famous pumpkin float at Fuller Lake and the Hairy Hand story); the Iron Run half-marathon & Charcoal Challenge 5k on June 9; campground firewood sales; and merchandise sales at the Park Office and at special 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 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 support our special events. Please see below for a full list of major volunteer events in 2018.

If you can help by volunteering at the Iron Run or Fall Furnace Fest, or if you can join our occasional “firewood splitting parties,” please send an email to PGFvolunteers@gmail.com.

In 2016-2017 we focused on repairing Mountain Creek Trail including a new 55-foot hiking bridge, and we also renovated the Koppenhaver Trail that loops along the creek closer to Fuller Lake. Volunteers were crucial to those efforts. We expect to continue trail improvements in 2018 and beyond. We hope to install additional pedestrian bridges to link the park's hiking trails to improve the trail network between the campgrounds and Laurel Lake. We are also supporting a park project to improve family campground entrance/exit areas, and we plan to hire a specialist mason to stabilize brickwork at the old furnace stack.

Your membership helps 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 2018.

Sincerely,



André Weltman

Chairman, *Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park*

PineGroveFriends@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Pine-Grove-Furnace-State-Park-131815140192988



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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
at Pine Grove Furnace State Park for 2018

Mark these 2018 dates on your calendars!

Earth Day and Friends Annual Meeting – Saturday, April 21: Volunteers will work on park trails and do 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. After lunch, please join us at 1 PM for a Friends annual meeting with updates on our park and on other activities in the Michaux State Forest and statewide.

Woodsy Owl Weekend – weekend of May 18-20: Two days of free camping (overnight on May 18 and May 19) in exchange for one morning (Saturday May 19) of volunteering in the park. A fun family weekend! Please contact the State Park Office at 717-486-7174 for details and to sign up.

8th Annual Iron Run and Charcoal Challenge – Saturday, June 9: 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. Full information and race registration: www.RunReg.com/7757 for the half-marathon, or www.RunReg.com/7758 for the 5k run/walk. Volunteers are needed: please email PGFvolunteers@gmail.com.

National Public Lands Day – Saturday, September 29: Volunteers will work on various tasks around the park during the morning. Afterwards, we'll have a potluck lunch with burgers & hotdogs grilled by the Friends group – lunch participants should bring a covered dish to share.

10th Annual 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 State 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, please 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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