VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in 2020

Earth Day, Saturday April 25: Volunteers needed for trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, and other tasks to get the park ready for summer.

Woodsy Owl, weekend of May 16: Two nights free camping in exchange for a Saturday morning volunteering in the park. Friends will host a potluck lunch Saturday. Please sign up via the State Park office.

Iron Run & Charcoal Challenge, Saturday June 13: The annual Iron Run Half-Marathon, a trail run through the State Forest. The Charcoal Challenge is a 5k run/walk. Sign up at www.RunReg.com. Also, we need many volunteers at checkpoints and registration.

National Public Lands Day, Saturday September 26: Volunteers needed to help maintain trails and structures in the park, and replace invasive plants with natives.

Fall Furnace Fest, October 17-18: Join us for a 2-day family oriented weekend event with live music, craft & food vendors, history demonstrations, hay wagon rides, pumpkin carving and the story of the “Hairy Hand” at Fuller Lake. Volunteers are needed, whether for a few hours or during the entire two-day festival: please email PGFvolunteers@gmail.com.

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park was formed in August 2010 as a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF).

PPFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to PPFF are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Official registration for PPFF is available from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Our Mission: The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park exists to keep history alive and promote educational and recreational programs at the park and surrounding areas through special events and trail development while protecting the park’s natural resources.

Visit us on Facebook, and at our website: www.PineGroveFriends.org
Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park

Our group was formed in 2010 as a non-profit chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation (PPFF) which has more than 40 similar groups in PA State Parks (and a few State Forests too, including the new Friends of Michaux S.F. formed in Spring 2019). Friends volunteers and supporters provide a little “value added” to State Parks which serve the public using limited resources and personnel. At Pine Grove Furnace, we work closely with park staff to maintain quality public programs at our busy little park. We raise money for special projects while promoting education, conservation and recreation.

Our regular fundraisers include the Fall Furnace Fest (with the famous pumpkin float and Hairy Hand story at Fuller Lake); the Iron Run half-marathon & Charcoal Challenge 5k run/walk; campground firewood sales; and merchandise sales. All money we raise stays at our park. As a chapter of PPFF we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations are tax deductible.

We continue to cut, split and stack wood for firewood sales – a special thank you to the dedicated volunteers who help with that ongoing and time-consuming task. The Friends also support Earth Day, National Public Lands Day, and the Woodsy Owl Weekend by coordinating a potluck lunch for volunteers. We are grateful for the many volunteers who help to maintain trails and bridges, remove invasive plant species, and help at special events like Fall Furnace Fest.

Since 2010 we’ve done our best to improve the park for hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. We repaired the furnace stack, purchased playgrounds, bought a kayak EZ-dock for Laurel Lake, and paid to replace locksets across the park, simplifying the daily workload of park staff. We are also paying for a project to improve the entrance/exit area of the family campground. The Friends also regularly help maintain State Park hiking trails.

In 2016 the Friends installed a substantial hiking bridge along Mountain Creek Trail; we are now working on another bridge to connect that trail with Koppenhaver Trail. Our group recently was awarded two grants for $70,000 to support this major project which will total nearly $120,000. The remainder of the funding will come from the Friends. Your donations are appreciated!

If you can help by volunteering at special event or indeed throughout the year, please send an email to PGFvolunteers@gmail.com.

Your membership helps Pine Grove Furnace State Park continue to be one of the best State Parks in Pennsylvania. Thank you!

Andre Weltman, Chairman

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park

March 2020 – March 2021 membership includes discounts on merchandise!

_____ Individual $10.00
_____ Family $15.00
_____ Tax-deductible donation: $_____

NAME(S)

STREET

CITY

STATE    ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

Willing to help split/stack firewood? ___

Make checks payable to “PPFF” and please write “FOPGF” on memo line.

DATE __________________________

AMOUNT ENCLOSED $__________

CHECK NUMBER ________________

Mail form and payment to:
Friends of Pine Grove Furnace
1100 Pine Grove Road
Gardners, PA 17324