

Volunteer position description: TrailRider Volunteer

Parks Victoria protects and enhances over four million hectares of diverse parks, about 17 per cent of Victoria. Parks Victoria's vision is to be a world-class park service ensuring healthy parks for healthy people. The Healthy Parks Healthy People approach to park management underpins the TrailRider Volunteer program promoting an opportunity to help connect volunteers with members of our community who may not normally experience our park network.

The TrailRider Volunteer Program aims to assist park visitors with mobility limitations to explore the many beautiful park walking trails that may not normally be accessible. TrailRider Volunteers are engaged as chair operators to assist carers in pushing/pulling these specially designed all terrain wheelchairs on Park trails. This additional physical assistance provided by volunteers makes it possible for park visitors to access trails that would not be possible with only one carer or chair operator.

TrailRider Volunteers are required to:

- Physically assist carers in assembling and disassembling the Trail Rider chairs prior to and after use in the park.
- Physically assist in pulling/pushing the Trail Rider chair with the visitor as chair passenger on selected walks in the park.
- Provide friendly social interaction with the park visitor
- Provide park information and interpretation to the park visitors
- Alert park rangers to any trail hazards discovered on walking trails

TrailRider Volunteers will not:

- Enforce any Park Regulations
- Be required to transport park visitors in their vehicles
- Enter hazardous situations
- Be the care provider to the park visitor using the chair

Key skills/abilities

TrailRider Volunteers must:

- Have a positive attitude and ability to engage with people with disabilities and their carers
- Have a passion for bush walking and be reasonably fit
- Can physically push/pull an all-terrain wheelchair on a range of track surfaces and track gradients
- Have interest in parks, conservation and/or nature
- Have strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Benefits
- Participate in a training program to ensure that they have the knowledge, skills and confidence to work as Sherpas in a professional manner
- Have an opportunity to explore parks and extend the offer to visitors with previously limited access
- Increase understanding of the natural environment and the significance of the cultural landscape of the park

- Have an opportunity to meet people from a broad range of backgrounds
- Receive satisfaction in assisting others to access and experience the many walking trails in Victoria's beautiful parks

Training

All TrailRider Volunteers are required to attend a training and induction program provided by Parks Victoria prior to placement. This ensures that volunteers have the knowledge and skills to provide information and assistance to visitors in a professional manner while using the all-terrain chairs.

Supervision

TrailRider Volunteers will meet relevant Parks Victoria staff before they start in their role and will be provided with contact details in case of any emergencies. It is strongly recommended that you have a fully charged mobile phone on hand.

Location

TrailRider Volunteers are currently located in the Grampians National Park and the Dandenong Ranges National Park. Parks Victoria is hoping to expand the program to other parts of Victoria.

Uniform

Parks Victoria will supply a T-shirt and hat that must be worn while undertaking the role. This can be worn over the top of your everyday clothing. Sunscreen must also be applied even on days when it is cloudy to avoid sun burn.

Health

You will be required to be physically active with a good level of fitness and health expected.

National Police Check & Working with Children Check

All volunteers are required to have a National Police Check with the cost covered by Parks Victoria. All volunteers must also obtain a Working with Children Check which is at no cost, through The Department Of Justice.

Regulations

No domestic animals such as dogs, cats, birds etc can accompany you into the park detailed in the National

Parks Act 1975, S.R. No. 115/2013. For Guide Dogs and Assistance Dogs please refer questions to the Rangers on duty

Transport

Transport must be of own accord to and from locations.