

Volunteer Role Description: Volunteer Track Ranger program.

Volunteer Track Rangers offer a friendly point of contact for visitors along tracks and trails in Parks Victoria's National Parks. Volunteer Track Rangers walk and camp along popular tracks in key visitation areas during peak holidays providing hikers with up-to-date park information, promoting minimal impact techniques to improve awareness of the park environment and providing a direct link between visitors and Parks Victoria. Becoming a Volunteer Track Ranger enables you to experience particularly unique and fragile environments whilst engaging with diverse visitors and connecting to nature.

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 Volunteer Track Ranger program promoting an opportunity to connect volunteers with nature to improve health of the Park, volunteer and wider community.

The Volunteer Track Ranger Program was established in 2005 with volunteers hiking the trails of Parks Victoria's most visited mountains including; Mount Bogong, Mount Feathertop, Mount Buffalo or the Bogong High Plains over 3 to 5 days. The program has now been extended to other parks and reserves across Victoria. Please visit www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au for the full list.

Tasks and responsibilities

Volunteer Track Rangers;

- Provide a friendly contact point for both Parks Victoria staff and visitors along trails and campsites
- Provide visitors with up-to-date park information
- Provide advice to campers and walkers regarding any changes in condition including road closures, weather conditions, fire danger ratings etc.
- Promote minimal impact techniques for walking and camping to improve awareness of park environment and visitor facilities
- Carry out light trail maintenance as required (no mechanical equipment will be used)
- Collect track inventory and visitor number information as required
- Alert Contact Rangers to disturbances or breaches of park regulations including recording issues and events that may be of significance

Volunteer Track Rangers do not;

- Enforce any Park Regulations
- Enter into dangerous or confrontational situations with campers, visitors or staff

Key skills/abilities

- Have demonstrated strong experience in remote area hiking and camping
- Well-developed navigational skills and high level of fitness
- Have a positive attitude and demonstrate ability to solve minor problems or refer them on
- Be able to be self-directed and work with minimal supervision
- Be willing to camp out for a minimum of 3 nights in remote areas
- Have interest in Parks Victoria, natural resource management/conservation and/or nature

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- Have strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Have a valid First Aid Certificate
- Knowledge of environments applying for is an advantage (training provided)

Training

All Volunteer Track Ranger volunteers are required to attend our training and induction program provided by Parks Victoria. This ensures that volunteers have the knowledge and skills to provide information to campers and visitors in a professional manner.

Supervision

Volunteer Track Rangers will meet relevant Parks Victoria staff before they start in their role. Depending on the location supervision will vary however volunteers will be provided with a radio which will provide direct communication to a Parks Victoria Ranger to regularly check-in and alert them of any issues, concerns or problems.

Volunteer Track Rangers will operate in pairs, to ensure wellbeing and safety. If applying alone, Parks Victoria will 'pair' you up with another volunteer so maybe consider applying with a friend or family member.

Location and availability

The Volunteer Track Ranger program runs in the Alpine National Park around Mount Bogong, Mount Feathertop, the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing Walking Track and Mount Buffalo over the New Year's period, over the Labour Day Long Weekend as well as Easter. Other parks include The Grampians, Wilsons Promontory and Mornington Peninsula National Parks. The Great Ocean Walk and Cathedral Range State Park (check vacancies for dates/times)

Commitment

Volunteers are required to spend a minimum of three nights on the track or trails.

National Police Check and Working with Children Check

All Volunteer Track Rangers are required to have a National Police Check with the cost covered by Parks Victoria. A Working with Children Check is now also required. Visit <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au>

Uniform & Camping Equipment

Parks Victoria will supply a green long-sleeved polo top, name badge, welcome pack and hat identifying you as a Parks Victoria volunteer; this must be worn while undertaking the role. Parks Victoria does not supply any camping, cooking or other items needed to undertake the role.

Health

You will be required to be physically active; therefore, a very high level of fitness and health is expected.

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.

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