

# Volunteering at the Preserve

By Ranger Su

At the Preserve we are blessed to have such a great community of supporters, including our many volunteers, as well as those who are members and contributors to the Friendsrock.org support organization. We have a growing online community via social media community (we just hit 6600 followers on Facebook!).

When there isn't a hiring freeze as there is now, our entire team is 13 parttime and fulltime employees. To give you an idea of what this means, we have 2 people to maintain the flora and fauna of the entire 1700 acres of the Preserve (i.e. our Stewards). So, we are very reliant and EXTREMELY thankful for our volunteers and this issue is dedicated to all of them! Below, short summary of some of our volunteer programs and how to learn more. If you want to get involved, please reach out, but be persistent as sometimes we can get swamped! Sign up to join our volunteer list at: [rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org/volunteer](http://rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org/volunteer)



<p><b>STEWARDSHIP TEAM</b></p>	<p>Stewards help with habitat restoration and trail maintenance! There is always something different to work on; whether it be removing invasive plant species to help natives grow, maintaining existing native habitat, assisting in plantings, or clearing debris from trails. CONTACT: <a href="mailto:stewards@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org">stewards@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org</a></p>
<p><b>GARDENING TEAM</b></p>	<p>Every week volunteers come and care for the Preserve's magnificent gardens, including our world-famous Japanese Tree Peony Garden. We are seeking volunteers to join the team. The group meets every Monday, however, once trained, gardeners often come when time best suits them. CONTACT: <a href="mailto:gardens@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org">gardens@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org</a></p>
<p><b>GUARDIANS OF THE PRESERVE</b></p>	<p>The Guardians Program is a dedicated group who commit to weekly trail patrols and help with light maintenance and overall protection of the Preserve. Guardians contribute to the enjoyment of visitors by encouraging and engaging them to understand the purpose of the Preserve and its varied offerings. CONTACT: <a href="mailto:volunteers@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org">volunteers@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org</a></p>
<p><b>MONARCH AMBASSADORS</b></p>	<p>Volunteers train to become certified Monarch Ambassador for the Preserve, learning how to protect these beloved pollinators by creating and maintaining habitat, as well as raising and releasing. To date, we estimate we have released over 1000 butterflies into the Preserve. CONTACT: <a href="mailto:monarchs@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org">monarchs@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org</a></p>
<p><b>HULDA'S NIGHT</b></p>	<p>Hulda's Night is an immersive outdoor theater experience in IV Acts performed in the Preserve at night. Staged the last 2 weeks of October only, Hulda is a community favorite. Our volunteers have a great time, get free tickets and are a critical part of this unique park experience. CONTACT: <a href="mailto:hulda@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org">hulda@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org</a></p>
<p><b>CORPORATE DAYS PROGRAMS</b></p>	<p>The Preserve collaborates with local industry and organizations to host volunteer workdays for corporate, church, school, and other groups (10 to 20 people). Workdays are a healthy opportunity to engage in team building and fulfill social responsibility goals. CONTACT: <a href="mailto:volunteers@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org">volunteers@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org</a></p>
<p><b>CUSTOM PROGRAMS</b></p>	<p>We work with many local companies and organizations who have a need for custom volunteer programs, including Community Service obligations. CONTACT: <a href="mailto:volunteers@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org">volunteers@rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org</a></p>



Not able to volunteer? You can still help by donating to the Friends! Contact [friends@friendsrock.org](mailto:friends@friendsrock.org)