

# VALLEY FORGE HUT BRIGADE VOLUNTEER FAQ



Thank you for your interest in the Valley Forge Hut Brigade. All interested volunteers are welcome and no experience is necessary. However, Park rules require volunteers to be at least 16 years old. The following are general guidelines which apply to the Hut Brigade activities

**WHEN:** Work sessions are typically held every other Saturday morning, from 9 am to about 1 pm. The schedule is adjusted to accommodate holidays, winter breaks, etc., resulting in about 15–20 sessions per year.

**WHERE:** Work locations are based on the project for that session such as the Blacksmith Hut, Muhlenberg Huts, Carpenters shop, etc. You will be notified by email prior to the session regarding the exact location.

**ATTIRE:** Long pants are recommended and sturdy work boots essential. Work gloves and safety glasses are also essential, but the Park may be able to provide those if you do not have your own.

**FOOD:** Breakfast snacks, bagels and orange juice are provided. Feel free to bring your own coffee.

**SUPERVISION:** NPS Ranger Pat Sullivan supervises each session beginning with goals for the day. Pat is an excellent craftsman, and very experienced, and happily provides any guidance requested of him. So if you need advice on how to do any task, do not hesitate to ask him.

**OPTIONAL:** The Park provides all tools, but sometimes small items, like tape measures or pencils are in great demand. So if you have your own, it would be helpful, but not necessary to bring them.

**SIGN-UP & CONFIRMATION OF YOUR PARTICIPATION:** Notice of the next session is typically sent two weeks in advance via e-mail, with a reminder one week in advance. Some projects require a minimum number of volunteers, while others have an upper limit on how many can be accommodated. It is therefore important that you sign up in advance. If you would like to receive regular updates on Hut Brigade volunteer work days, please email [info@vfparkalliance.org](mailto:info@vfparkalliance.org).

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**NOVA (Network Of Volunteer Associates)** is a community service organization previously sponsored by **Lockheed Martin**. The Hut Brigade, one of many community service projects supported by NOVA, has continued maintenance of the huts such as rebuilding chimneys, building bunks and replacing doors. In more recent years, the Brigade has expanded services to assist the Park and improve the visitor experience by making lanterns, popular water yokes, gabions for Ft. Moore, stools and new benches at Muhlenberg Brigade.