

LAKE METROPARKS



volunteers

WINTER 2025-26



Get in a festive spirit by helping at an adapted program or at the new Holiday Ice & Lights Festival at Farmpark. A variety of positions are available!

Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held in November at Pine Ridge Country Club. This event recognized volunteers who had more than 20 hours of service in 2024. Lake Metroparks Park Services Director Tom Adair thanked all volunteers for their continued effort and dedication. He pointed out recent events made possible by volunteers, as well as the importance of ongoing roles like animal care and golf marshals. He also discussed recent park developments and concluded with our thanks to the community for supporting Lake Metroparks on the ballot this year.



Thank You Halloween Volunteers!

A huge thank you to all who helped make Halloween Drive-thru spooktacular this year! We had more than 500 volunteers who put in 2,900 hours of service. Shout out to our local schools and teachers from Shore Middle School, Memorial Middle School, Mentor High School, Mentor Christian School, Kirtland Key Club, Notre Dame Cathedral

Latin and West Geauga Interact for scheduling student nights. Thank you to all of the scout, church and community youth groups, families and individuals who participated. We couldn't have done it without you!

The following was posted on social media from one of our awesome volunteers.

"THAT'S A WRAP, FARM PARK!! I had an absolute blast and a half volunteering at THE one and only Haunted Halloween Drive-Thru at the @lakemetroparks Farmpark. Three weekends, all nights except my birthday. Yes, I really did that. What a way to spend October! I was: an ice cream slinging skeleton, a zombie, Lydia Deetz (x2), a captured astronaut, bride of Frankenstein, and Santa Jack Skellington (x2)! Everyone at Farmpark is so so so kind and the work that goes into this event is second to none. I wish people appreciated it more even though it's still not the same as the old hayrides that I used to do as a kid. Either way, thank you to everyone I met along the journey (including the random dad who ended up being a former Dapper Dan and Candlelight Processional singer at Walt Disney World! Small world!) and thank you again to all the amazing Farmpark employees!! Congrats on a great run this year!! Good luck with the holiday season!!!" @kindred_kelsey

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Check out VIC or give us a call to sign up!

There's lots you can do to get into the spirit of the season! We are looking for Santa's helpers for cookie decorating, writing letters to Santa, scavenger hunts, elves, popcorn, wagon loaders and more for the **Holiday Ice & Lights**

Festival at Farmpark November 28-30. Salamander craft assistants, smores assistants, and campfires attendants are needed for **Candy Land** at Penitentiary Glen for various dates now though January 4. The **Country Lights Drive-thru** ticket booth has four openings available at Farmpark this December. In this role, the volunteer greets visitors and scans mobile or printed tickets. Feel free to dress up in your most festive holiday apparel.

Level-up Birding: Citizen Science will take place at Penitentiary Glen on December 20. This program is a great introduction to our purple martin and bluebird monitoring volunteer opportunities that will start up again in the spring. If you're interested in helping and learning more, sign up to assist a naturalist.

Lake Metroparks offers amazing adapted programs at various locations such as **Adapted Holiday Bingo** (Dec 12 Lakefront Lodge), **Adapted Snowshoe Hike** (Jan 16 Chapin Forest), and **Adapted Farm Fun** (Feb 7 Farmpark). There is even an **Adapted Basketball** series running most Mondays January through March at Broadmoor School. Sign up to help today!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Presidents' Day will be observed Monday, January 19 and Monday, February 16. Greeters, fire attendants, activity helpers and photographers will be needed for both the **Wild Winter Open House** in January and **Rock Around the Park** in February at the Environmental Learning Center at Jordan Creek Park. The **Fun Days** at Penitentiary Glen will explore imaginative themes with Cryptid Creatures and Pocket Monsters, and **Farmer Monday** will take place February 16 at Farmpark. Available volunteer positions for these events will be posted soon.

Lake Metroparks Volunteer Services

Volunteer Line 440-585-3041 x6418 volunteer@lakemetroparks.com
Beverly Caduff 440-585-3041 x6322 bcaduff@lakemetroparks.com
Lauren Pauline 440-585-3041 x6419 lpauline@lakemetroparks.com

Keep Us Informed

To help keep our records updated, please send us any changes to your address, telephone numbers or email. Keep in touch! If you would like to receive information from us via email, please forward your email address to volunteer@lakemetroparks.com.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES MISSION

Volunteer Services supports the Lake Metroparks' mission by providing a substantial resource of volunteers to enrich and expand Lake Metroparks services and programs as well as generate goodwill through citizen participation in Lake Metroparks.

THE MISSION OF LAKE METROPARKS

To conserve and preserve the natural resources of Lake County while providing a variety of safe, affordable and enjoyable educational and recreational programs and activities that enhance the quality of life in Lake County now and for generations to follow.

Country Lights Drive-thru Volunteer Ticket

Current LMP volunteers will be eligible to receive one free ticket (one carload) to this year's Country Lights Drive-thru event at Farmpark. To order your free ticket, volunteers will need to participate in the ticket sale online only and apply code **VOL25** as the promo code when prompted. Event nights are December 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 and 26-28. Time slots are 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 pm.

ID Badge & Sticker

Remember to serve 20 hours each year to access your many park benefits. 2026 stickers for ID badges will be available in January for volunteers who served 20 hours or more in 2025. Check with your supervisor or contact Volunteer Services for a new sticker.



Longtime toy workshop woodcutters and ongoing seasonal volunteers reunite for an annual get together. (L to R) Mike Bodnar, John Glasser, Wes Orloff, Dan Maxson, Peter Tuttle, Bob Himes, Scott Pascoe, Jim Mackemull & Earl Linaburg

Happy holidays! 
Have a happy & healthy
New Year!

LAKE COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE
Mark J. Bartolotta

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Gretchen Skok DiSanto • Frank J. Polivka • John C. Redmond

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Paul Palagyi

Lake Metroparks does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, nationality or disability in employment, services, programs or activities. Should special assistance be required in visiting facilities and/or participating in programs or activities of Lake Metroparks, please call 440-358-7275 at least 48 hours in advance.