



Volunteer in *your* Charleston, South Carolina National Parks



Do you enjoy working with people? Do you love history? Do you want to help preserve the resources and share the stories of our national heritage? Have you ever thought about working in a National Park? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, here is an opportunity for you!

National Park Service Sites

The National Park Service preserves, protects and interprets four sites in the Charleston, South Carolina area. Fort Sumter National Monument comprises three of them: Fort Sumter, located on an island in Charleston Harbor; the Fort

Sumter Visitor Education Center at Liberty Square in downtown Charleston, where boats depart to Fort Sumter; and Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island. The fourth site is Charles Pinckney National Historic Site, located in Mount Pleasant.

Fort Sumter

Built after the War of 1812 as part of the third system of coastal fortifications, Fort Sumter was named in honor of South Carolina Revolutionary War Patriot Thomas Sumter. Fort Sumter stood about 90% complete when it served as the stage for one of the defining moments in United States history: the start of the American Civil War on April 12, 1861.

This first battle of the war lasted only 34 hours and resulted in the surrender of Fort Sumter to the Confederacy. The next day, President Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to put down the rebellion. Confederate forces held Fort Sumter almost to the end of the war. In 1863 the Siege of Charleston began and by the end of the siege in February 1865, U.S. forces

had fired 35 tons of projectiles at the fort. Fort Sumter was reduced to rubble.

The Civil War lasted four long years with close to 624,000 lives lost. The foundations and beliefs of the United States were forever changed. No longer was the country half-free.



Fort Moultrie



Fort Moultrie showcases 171 years of seacoast defense. From the American Revolution through World War II, three forts have stood on Sullivan's Island ready to protect Charleston. However, the fort's cannons were fired in battle during only two wars: the American Revolution and the Civil War.

In early 1776, Colonel William Moultrie oversaw the construction of the first fort. Built of palmetto logs and sand, it was only half finished when the British attacked with nine warships on June 28, 1776. The battle lasted one day and resulted in the first decisive Patriot victory over the British.

The third fort, standing today, was built in 1809. From here, Confederate soldiers fired on Fort Sumter in April 1861. Until 1865 Confederate soldiers defended Fort Moultrie against Union forces.

There have been several significant people stationed at Fort Moultrie including Edgar Allan Poe, William T. Sherman and George C. Marshall.

**Charles Pinckney
National Historic Site**



The Charles Pinckney site is comprised of the last 28 acres of the Snee Farm plantation. The current house, built of cypress and pine in the 1820s, is a typical tidewater cottage once common in coastal South Carolina. Charles Pinckney's father

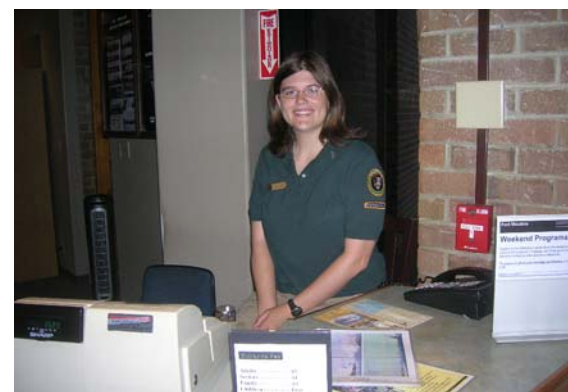
purchased Snee Farm in 1754 and it remained in the family for more than 60 years. During this time, rice, indigo and other food stuffs were grown. Between 40 and 60 slaves worked on the plantation.

Charles Pinckney, born October 26, 1757, grew up in a prominent Charleston family. After receiving a proper education, Charles dedicated his life to public service for more than 40 years. Some of his greatest accomplishments include: contributing to important sections and signing the United States Constitution at the Constitutional Convention of 1787, serving four terms as governor of South Carolina, and representing the United States as the Ambassador to Spain.

**Volunteer Job
Descriptions**

There are opportunities to help the parks in a variety of ways. Visitor Center Assistants greet visitors, hand out brochures, collect entrance fees, and operate the cash register for the Eastern National bookstore. With an approved outline, some volunteers opt to give interpretive programs at the various sites. Other volunteers work closely with the park historian as research assistants transcribing primary source documents. Resource Management Assistants work on preserving and protecting the cultural resources. Volunteers also have the

opportunity to help with special events, like the Gullah Heritage Days.



Requirements

The National Park Service provides on-the-job training, uniform shirts, a ball cap, and a name tag for all volunteers. Those who live in the area are asked to volunteer

just four hours a week. RV volunteers must stay for a minimum of two months with each person in the RV volunteering 32 hours per week.

RV Site Information

There are four RV sites for volunteers at Charles Pinckney NHS. The park can accommodate motor homes of up to 36 feet due to the narrow and winding access to the campground. Each camp site has full hookups with 50 AMP service. A shared laundry facility, household refrigerator and phone are located nearby. Volunteers are welcome to make local calls and connect to their dial-up Internet service after hours. A phone card may be used for long distance calls.



**Places to Visit and
Activities to Do**

Each volunteer receives a reciprocal pass allowing you and a guest to visit many historic homes, plantations, museums, and other attractions throughout the area for free (restrictions may apply).

Charleston is home to several colleges and universities, including the College of Charleston and the Citadel. Throughout the year, many events and festivals are held

like the Southeastern Wildlife Expo, Spoleto Festival USA and the Cooper River Bridge Run. Outside activities are available year round including golfing, fishing, kayaking, beachcombing and hiking.

Within a 2-1/2 hour drive are Savannah, Myrtle Beach, Georgetown, Hilton Head and even Congaree National Park.

For More Information

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at your Charleston area National Park sites, please write to the Volunteer Coordinator, 1214 Middle Street, Sullivan's Island, SC 29482; call

(843) 883-3123; or visit us on the World Wide Web at :

www.nps.gov/fosu or
www.nps.gov/chpi