

Auburn State Recreation Area  
**Canyon Keepers**  
2022 Volunteer Duty Information

Each member is asked to volunteer a minimum of 40 hours per year to fulfill his or her commitment to Auburn State Recreation Area Canyon Keepers (ASRACK). The volunteer hours can be in one area or in a combination of areas in any of the following:

- **Docent Duty (shifts are 3 ½-4 ½ hours each)**
- **Trail Maintenance**
- **Trash and Litter Pickup**
- **Jr. Rangers**
- **Leave No Trace - teams of 2 patrolling and assisting visitors on selected trails**
- **Interpretive Programs and Projects - e.g. nature interpretation presentations, design and installation of interpretive display panels, research and preparation of posters, brochures and summary sheets, or other means of sharing interpretive information with the public**
- **Special Events - Earth Day celebration or other community events where Canyon Keepers have a booth**
- **Other special projects as requested by State Parks - e.g. Native Garden installation and maintenance, State Park Celebrations, bluebird houses installation and maintenance**
- **Technology Development – investigating and implementing programs using technology to improve communication and education for the public**
- **Leading or assisting interpretive trail hikes for the public**
- **Making public presentations on topics relevant to ASRA**
- **Other volunteer activities include attending Canyon Keeper meetings and participating in State Parks/Canyon Keeper training sessions**

**Docent Duty**

Docent Duty serves two purposes:

1. Allows Canyon Keeper volunteers a visible location to disseminate information, verbally and with written materials and interpretive displays, to the visitors of the Auburn State Recreation Area about the State Park (hiking trails, historical and environmental information, park rules, river safety tips, kayaking options) and the Canyon Keepers organization (e.g. monthly meetings and hikes, interpretive programs, junior rangers program).
2. Allows Canyon Keeper volunteers to monitor the areas around the Confluence and Mountain Quarries (No Hands) Bridge for visitor safety/security and compliance with State Park rules. During your Docent Duty shift, **one** volunteer will periodically patrol the surrounding area and take note (and followup action with ASRA rangers, if necessary) if visitors are not complying with park rules. Volunteers may wish to pick-up trash, take the water temperature of the river or share interpretive information with visitors during this periodic patrol.

***Keep in mind that Canyon Keeper volunteers are only expected to respectfully remind visitors of the State Park rules, not to enforce the rules.***

Consult the Canyon Keepers volunteers handbook, included in the Docent Duty supplies kit, for detailed information on a number of topics related to ASRA, State Parks, Canyon Keepers and your duties and opportunities as a volunteer to share information with the public.

- The Docent Duty season begins mid-April and runs through September
- The typical shift each day (Saturday, Sunday) is from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. On holiday weekends (Saturday, Sunday and Monday) the hours are expanded and divided into two 3 hour shifts, 8:00 am to 11:00 am and 11:00 pm to 2:00 pm.
- Two or three members generally work together for each shift.
- The Docent Duty schedule is posted on the State Parks Better Impact website (see Better Impact Instructions). Volunteers will check the schedule on the Better Impact site and sign up for their own shifts at least 48 hours in advance of the shift. You may also delete your shift on the website at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled shift. If you wish to add or delete a shift later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled shift, contact Docent Duty Coordinator, Jim LoBue at 530-887-8335.
- On your volunteer day meet your partner at the ASRA ranger station at the start time (at least 15 minutes prior to the start of your duty shift), pick-up your gear in the CK shed and carpool to the Mountain Quarries Bridge station site. There will be an ASRACK parking permit sign for your windshield in the clear plastic filing container in the shed so that you may park in allowed spots without paying a day use fee.
- For shift gear setup and takedown the volunteers may park temporarily in the parking spots marked with signage stating: 'Authorized Vehicles Only'.

You will typically receive, via e-mail prior to your shift, a duty reminder including contact information for your Docent Duty partner and any other special instructions.

## **Tabling/Special Events**

Canyon Keepers volunteer at special community events throughout the year. An example of a special event is the annual Auburn Community Festival where Canyon Keepers have a table to display interpretive materials and disseminate information. Other examples of community events are Earth Day at Sierra College, Paddle Safety Day at Lake Clementine or China Bar and Clean-Up Day at the Confluence. Sometimes we share a booth with other organizations. State Parks also requests assistance with set-up, parking, etc. for other periodic special events (e.g. State Parks project groundbreakings, anniversary commemoration events). Occasionally Canyon Keepers are requested to make speaking presentations for other local community organizations. For more information contact Sue Groghan at 530-878-6008 or [suegroghan@gmail.com](mailto:suegroghan@gmail.com).

## **Trail Maintenance**

The purpose of the Canyon Keepers' Trail Maintenance group is to trim the trails of hanging shrubbery, trees, and especially poison oak and occasionally to assist State Parks crews on special trail maintenance projects. The maintenance work is coordinated via e-mail by Manouch Shirvanioun, the chairperson. If you're interested in doing trail work or just want to be on the list, please e-mail Manouch at: [mshirvanioun@yahoo.com](mailto:mshirvanioun@yahoo.com).

The Trash and Litter Pickup Committee is a group of volunteers who undertake outings on ASRA trails to remove trash and litter. The coordinator for this group is Manouch Shirvanioun. He organizes and schedules outings and coordinates with State Parks. Contact him at: [mshirvanioun@yahoo.com](mailto:mshirvanioun@yahoo.com).

In addition to trail maintenance, there are other opportunities to enjoy the trails in the canyons while helping to keep the canyons beautiful, safe and clean, such as Earth Day (River Clean-up), National Trails Day (repair of trails, planting trees, etc.) and through other volunteer organizations such as PARC, FATRAC and the Western States Trail Association.

## **Junior Rangers**

Junior Ranger programs teach nature appreciation to children ages 4 – 12. Most programs occur on Saturdays and Sundays in the summer. The program is currently in transition, with new State Parks staff taking over the program administration, but in the past we held a five week program for children who could attend several consecutive Saturdays at the Auburn SRA Ranger Station in June. There was also a "pick-up" program on Sunday afternoons for children who were using Upper Lake Clementine with their families and this program ran in July and August. Past Junior Ranger program themes have included geology, animals, solar cooking, dipping for insects in the river, water safety, plants and Maidu culture. We always need volunteers to help, but you will need to be security screened and fingerprinted for the park through the Department of Justice to work with the children. You will undergo a day of Junior Rangers volunteer training prior to beginning. To volunteer in the Junior Ranger program, please contact Joe Shanahan at [Joseph.Shanahan@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Joseph.Shanahan@parks.ca.gov) or 530-745-2202.

## **Interpretive Programs**

Canyon Keepers has an Interpretation Committee which pursues a number of projects to promote interpretive education in ASRA. The Committee members identify specific areas in the park of exceptional interest and conduct research and field studies to compile inventories, photographs, and other information on topics of interest, such as fauna, flora, settlement history, mining history, Native American history and culture, geology, hydrology and recreation activities and opportunities. The volunteer members use this material to prepare brochures, books and interpretive display materials. To learn more about the Interp Committee, contact Heather Rodgers at: [hrodgers.wildlife@gmail.com](mailto:hrodgers.wildlife@gmail.com) or call 530-401-3268.

At the first Tuesday of the month Canyon Keeper general meeting, we typically have a guest speaker give a presentation on a topic of interest related to ASRA. These presentations are often given by our own volunteers who have particular interest and expertise in the areas of nature photography, local

history, Native American culture, wildflowers, white water rafting, backpacking and outdoor survival skills. Anyone interested in giving such a presentation is invited to contact William Wauters at: [williamwauters@yahoo.com](mailto:williamwauters@yahoo.com) or call 530-878-0296..

ASRACK volunteers also lead hikes for families and/or adults in the American River Canyons with interpretive focus on the historic bridges, Old Limestone Quarry, Mountain Quarries Mine/Hawver Cave, flower walks, and other nature programs. If you are interested in leading interpretive hikes or programs, contact Charlene Carveth at 530-346-7032 or Sheila Toner at 530-886-0673.

## **Native Gardens**

Canyon Keepers has taken the lead in installing and maintaining a native plants garden at the ASRA headquarters complex. Work parties are periodically called to do planting, weeding, watering and other basic maintenance duties. The plants are then labeled to inform the public. For more information contact Diane Cornwall at: [rihdec@aol.com](mailto:rihdec@aol.com) or call 530-888-1404 or Jennifer Walker at: [jawalker9925@wavecable.com](mailto:jawalker9925@wavecable.com) or 916-451-9925.

## **Leave No Trace**

Since 2019 this program has been implemented on heavily used trails in the vicinity of the Confluence area. The program is designed to put volunteers on trails in hiking pairs identifiable by their uniform vests or shirts. The goal is to provide better public service to visitors of ASRA as well as provide visibility of State Parks associated persons on the most used trails. Leave No Trace volunteers will hike Quarry Trail to Hawver Mine, Clementine Trail and the Western States Trail between Hwy 49 and Canyon Creek Falls. The volunteer team of 2 hikes with a pack and has trash bags, brochures and possibly other materials to hand out to park visitors as needed. The volunteers can advise visitors on the location and conditions for different trails and other features of the recreation area. The program chair person maintains a sign up list and schedule for the program's activities. For more information contact Cathie Rohlfes at: [cathiebandage3@yahoo.com](mailto:cathiebandage3@yahoo.com) or call 916-667-6906.

## **Special Projects**

From time to time State Parks needs help in ASRA with Special Projects such as installation of bluebird houses near the Olmstead Loop, Confluence area improvements, directional signs and other trail improvements. Canyon Keepers also provide assistance for special events such as improvement project dedications and anniversary commemorations. Canyon Keepers also assist State Parks in researching and assembling technical information and materials such as photographs, maps, and historic and scientific information. Two specific examples are compiling an inventory of plants in ASRA and studying the plant regeneration in the Mammoth Bar OHV area following a previous fire. Many Canyon Keepers volunteers were active participants in the Auburn State Recreation Area General Plan public review process.