

Auburn State Recreation Area  
**Canyon Keepers**  
2016 Volunteer Duty Information

Each member is asked to volunteer a minimum of 16 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:

- **Confluence Docent Duty (shifts are 3-4 hours each)**
- **Trail Maintenance**
- **Jr. Rangers**
- **Interpretive Programs and Projects (e.g. nature interpretation presentations, design and installation of interpretive display panels)**
- **Special Events (Earth Day celebration or other community events where Canyon Keepers has a booth)**
- **Other special projects as requested by State Parks (e.g. Native Garden installation and maintenance, State Park Celebrations)**
- **Hawver Mine Tours Support**

**Confluence Docent Duty**

Confluence 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 Bridge for visitor safety/security and compliance with State Park rules. During your Confluence Docent Duty shift, **one** volunteer will periodically patrol the surrounding area and take note (and follow-up action with ASRA rangers, if necessary) if visitors are not complying with park rules (dogs off leash, barbecues being used after July 1<sup>st</sup>, glass containers being used, etc.). 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.***

If you have a public safety or medical emergency you will communicate the information by using your cell phone to call “Northern” or “Dispatch”. The communications section of your binder has instructions and more information about this.

- The Confluence Docent Duty season begins Memorial Weekend and runs through September (approximately May 28th to September 25<sup>th</sup>)
- The typical shift each day (Saturday, Sunday) is from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. On holiday weekends (Saturday, Sunday and Monday) the hours are expanded and divided into two 3 hour shifts, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
- Two or three members will work together for each shift. ***No one may work at the Confluence station or the Mountain Quarries Bridge station alone. You may sign up by yourself but someone else must sign up to join you. Check the schedule on the website prior to your shift to confirm.***
- The Confluence Docent Duty schedule is posted on our website: [www.canyonkeepers.org](http://www.canyonkeepers.org) – on the website homepage click on ‘Duty Schedule’. Please choose as many dates as you would like to cover and contact Jim LoBue via phone (530) 887-8335 or e-mail: [senorbogus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:senorbogus@sbcglobal.net). Jim will have your name added to the schedule. The website does not allow you to add your name or otherwise change the schedule directly.
- On your volunteer day meet your partner at the ASRA ranger station at the start time, pick-up your gear in the CK shed and carpool to the confluence or Mountain Quarries Bridge. 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 close to your station in the ‘authorized persons only’ parking area.

You will receive via e-mail the latest Canyon Keeper active membership list so that you will have contact information for your Confluence Docent Duty partner. Please check your own information on the membership list for accuracy. If your contact information changes, please contact Anita Yoder at [ayoder@vfr.net](mailto:ayoder@vfr.net) or call 916-652-7113.

## **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 and Clean-Up Days 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 groundbreaking, 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. The maintenance work is coordinated via e-mail by Margery Peterson, the chairperson. Trail work is done midweek 8am to 1pm. Time is flexible; work is done at an easy pace and is generally not strenuous. If you're interested in doing trail work or just want to be on the list, please e-mail Margery Peterson at [dalenmargiepeterso@att.net](mailto:dalenmargiepeterso@att.net).

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. We hold a five week program for children who can attend several consecutive weeks at the Auburn SRA Ranger Station in June and July. We will also run a “pick-up” program on Saturday and Sunday afternoons for children who are using Upper Lake Clementine with their families and this program is expected to run from July 3 to September 5. 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 Sue Groghan at [suewithjrrangers@gmail.com](mailto:suewithjrrangers@gmail.com) or Samantha Vigil at [samantha.vigil@parks.ca.gov](mailto:samantha.vigil@parks.ca.gov).

## **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 displays as well as display information on the Canyon Keeper website. To learn more about the Interpretation Committee, contact Dennis Szuszka at 530-613-6055 or [dennis.szuszka@wavecable.com](mailto:dennis.szuszka@wavecable.com).

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 Jim Ferris at 530-885-3887.

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 Mary Eldridge-Tober and she will connect you with the appropriate people.

## **Special Projects**

From time to time State Parks needs help in ASRA with Special Projects such as installation of native plant gardens, 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 are active participants in the Auburn State Recreation Area General Plan public review process.

## **Hawver Mine Tours**

Canyon Keepers has been given the responsibility by State Parks to establish, manage, and operate a new program to lead public tours of the Hawver Cave/Mountain Quarries Mine. The proposed new program is currently in the development phase and has not yet received State and Federal clearance to open for the public. Canyon Keepers is setting up the tour program through a Steering Committee. Volunteers serve on the committee to schedule and organize tours, train tour leaders, and create interpretive displays and materials. The tours will explore inside the historic Mountain Quarries Mine tunnels and interpret the geologic and Ice Age remnants of the original cave as well as the historic mining operation, now defunct. Canyon Keepers volunteers are trained to be able to lead the tours and provide a safe and enjoyable experience for the public. Once the trail improvements installation is completed within the tour site, Canyon Keepers will set up, manage and run public tours on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer and fall and will also set up and manage a group tour program for separate groups who may wish to focus on a specific tour theme and can attend the tours during the week.