



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Railroad Museum Volunteers Wanted – Sign Up Today!

***“Help Keep the Trains Rolling”
At America’s Most Popular Railroad Museum***

SACRAMENTO – The California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park are excited to announce that Volunteer Training for Fall 2008 will begin on Thursday, October 2nd.

Trained volunteers play a critical role in educating the public and enhancing the experience at the California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park. In fact, volunteers have contributed more than two million hours of service since the Museum’s inception in 1976! Dressed in railroad garb or other period attire, trained volunteers answer questions and discuss history with guests. There are many other volunteers, too. During 2007, more than 500 men and women were active with the Railroad Museum’s programs—including weekend steam train operations, track construction, restoration and maintenance, even clerical work.

Advance interviews, required for all interested volunteers, will be held in late September. Effective immediately, men, women and students interested in helping to communicate the West’s fascinating heritage of railroading and the California Gold Rush are invited to contact the Museum. For additional details or to sign up, please call the Museum’s Volunteer Training Coordinator, Theresa Gonsolis, at (916) 324-7593 or e-mail her at tgonsolis@parks.ca.gov.

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As part of their training, candidates are encouraged to consider participating in one or more Museum programs. For example, volunteers may choose to serve as docents and Museum tour guides; participate in hands-on, interactive educational programs for school groups; become involved with train operations on the Sacramento Southern Railroad; or orient visitors at Old Sacramento State Historic Park's historic Eagle Theatre and Huntington & Hopkins Hardware Store. Volunteer training represents a serious commitment, but the hours are flexible—and the rewards can be tremendous.

Interested participants without a history background are encouraged to enroll. In fact, most of the Museum's volunteers started out with little knowledge of railroads or the Gold Rush. As individuals become more familiar with the Railroad Museum's varied and frequent programs, many volunteers take on additional responsibilities, such as conducting research or giving talks to community organizations about the Museum. There are no fees charged. Perks for active volunteers include free parking while on duty, invitation to an annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet, complimentary Museum membership, and the chance to meet new, interesting people. A minimum annual commitment of 84 hours is required for active Museum volunteers.

Help keep the trains rolling! For further details about volunteering at the California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park, or to sign up for an interview, please call Volunteer Training Coordinator Theresa Gonsolis at (916) 324-7593, or e-mail her at tgonsolis@parks.ca.gov.

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the non-profit California State Railroad Museum Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Widely regarded as North America's finest and most popular railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-square foot Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill commercial buildings in Old Sacramento. For updated 24-hour information, call (916) 445-6645 or visit www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org.

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