

LAKE METROPARKS



volunteers

SPRING 2026



Dress up as a tree for Trees for Wildlife or the Easter Bunny at Breakfast with the Bunny! Many positions are open for volunteers at spring events like Earth Day.

Volunteer Highlight

by Jim Meadows, *Outdoor Connections Manager*

Karen Kingzett has been a dedicated volunteer with Lake Metroparks since 2019. Her parents were avid volunteers and encouraged her to do the same at a young age. She was born in Cleveland and grew up in Akron, Cincinnati and Columbus. She returned to Cleveland to start her teaching career as a math teacher at Glenville High School and Shaw High School. She had many wonderful students and worked with dedicated staff members. She loves to travel, especially internationally. After retirement, she taught part time at Cuyahoga Community College and helped at an after-school tutoring program. Karen says she is “an outdoor girl” so when choosing where to volunteer, she selected Lake Metroparks, Holden Arboretum and Cleveland Metroparks. Karen has volunteered in a variety of capacities for the park district over the years, most notably at special events like Maple Sugaring Weekends, Dairy Days, Breakfast in the Park, Lamb Jam and Candy Land and she has also spent time serving as a school guide. She especially loves assisting with adapted programs including boating, archery, music, track, golf and basketball.



Karen takes the time to get to know the adapted participants and provides enthusiasm, care and patience. She loves to keep score on the electronic

scoreboard during basketball games while praising and encouraging the athletes. The participants always enjoy Karen’s kind demeanor and positive attitude. To date, she has contributed more than 300 hours of her time to improving the quality of life for many park visitors.

Karen’s other interests include tennis, quilting and spending time with family and friends. Because of her sewing skills, she volunteers at Sew4Service which supports more than 50 charities. Karen says volunteering has helped her become positive and she encourages everyone to volunteer as it “helps others, allows you to meet wonderful people and enriches your own life in ways you cannot imagine.” We thank Karen for her time, intelligence and laughter and appreciate all that she brings to her volunteer assignments at Lake Metroparks.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

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

There are many big events coming up this spring, creating a wide variety of volunteer opportunities!

We are looking for a registered photographer and craft helper for **Maple Sugaring Weekends** at Farmpark on March 8. The **Trees for Wildlife** program is running March 2 to 20 and is presented to all Lake County first graders; you can be a presenter or the inflatable tree. A training session is required. If you like costumes, we also need a bunny for **Breakfast with the Bunny** at Farmpark on both April 3 and 4. **Fun Day: Learning to be Wild** at Penitentiary Glen is also April 3, and

we need a s'mores helper and campfire attendant. There's still time to get involved with **Adapted Sports Nights** at Lakefront Lodge. The program runs most Monday evenings April 20 to May 18. Sign up now!

The **Madhatters Canoe & Kayak Race** returns to Harpersfield Covered Bridge Metropark and Hidden Valley Park on April 25. Help with directing cars and unloading boats. We also need registered photographers to document the start and finish line. A handful of crafty volunteers are wanted for **Earth Day** at Penitentiary Glen on April 26. There is also one activity helper position available. Learn a new skill at Farmpark's **Lamb Jam** May 2 & 3. There are several positions to choose from, including weaving loom, black sheep challenge, maker's space wool craft and drum carder.

Fishing helpers needed! May kicks off the season's fishing programs with Adapted Fantastic Fishing at Farmpark on May 6, Arnie's Anglers Kids Fishing Derby at Hidden Lake on May 9 and Hidden Adventures at Hidden Lake on May 17. Several shift times are available. Volunteers should be 16 or older and be able to help participants bait a hook, cast and release fish.

Wildlife Center Internship Program

Lake Metroparks offers an unpaid internship program for college students pursuing a degree in biology, veterinary medicine, wildlife management, zoology or related field. Student applicants must be currently accepted into, or enrolled in, a two- or four-year accredited college or university in a course of study. The internship lasts from May to August, requiring two eight to nine hours shifts per week. We are now accepting applications. Apply online at lakemetroparks.com/get-involved/volunteer, check "Wildlife Center Internship" under the Interests section, and submit your resume to volunteer@lakemetroparks.com. Space is limited.

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.

Youth Volunteers

Are you a high school senior interested in learning about wildlife rehabilitation? Ask us about completing your senior project at the Kevin P. Clinton Wildlife Center. New volunteers should fill out the volunteer application online, check "High School Senior Project" under the Interests section, and include your school's name, dates of the project and how many hours you need in the box provided. Spaces are limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

We will begin scheduling youth volunteers for **summer camps** in April. Helpers are needed to assist counselors at various park locations including Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park, Farmpark, Penitentiary Glen Reservation, Jordan Creek Park, Children's Schoolhouse Nature Park and Chapin Forest Reservation. Descriptions of the camps can be found in *Parks Plus!* or online. Volunteers must be between 12 and 17 years old. Please call or email Volunteer Services for the list of openings or to schedule.

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week will be observed from April 19 through April 25 this year. During this week, various organizations come together to celebrate volunteers and their dedication, skills and support. Be on the lookout for an email coming soon with coupons and discounts courtesy of the FVA (Forum for Volunteer Administrators) and contributing organizations.

ID Badge & Sticker

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

LAKE COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

Mark J. Bartolotta

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Gretchen Skok DiSanto • Frank J. Polivka • John C. Redmond

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Paul Palagy

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