



RSVP
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
Blair and Huntingdon Counties
1-800-323-9997

RSVP Newsletter
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RSVP Station Spotlight – Huntingdon County Government Emergency Management Agency



The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has two RSVP stations at the Huntingdon County Government Office located at 223 Penn Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652. The Register and Recorder’s office, which was highlighted in Volume 10, Issue 1 RSVP newsletter, is one of the RSVP stations and the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is the other RSVP station.

The Emergency Management Agency partnered with RSVP in 2016, and Katie Unger, Director of EMA, and Cordelia Beatty, Operations and Training Officer, are the Station Supervisors. The Emergency Management Agency provides a variety of services for Huntingdon County, “Huntingdon County EMA does all sorts of services, HazMat spills, heating oil spills, and search & rescues” explains Cordelia. The volunteers at the Emergency Management Agency assist with these services, and they also perform other duties that help the agency operate, “They [volunteers] are considered deputies. They will respond to calls on certain days and handle situations if Katie is away or unable to respond. They attend parades, fairs, the Agape festival, touch-a truck, Mayfest, and Oktoberfest” says Cordelia. Currently, there are three volunteers enrolled in RSVP at the Emergency Management Agency.

The volunteers provide essential support for the agency and Huntingdon County, “Without them we wouldn’t have anyone to respond to calls. They are also very good with the public and handling incidents” states Cordelia. Volunteering at the Emergency Management Agency is a wonderful way to learn skills and help the community. It is also a fun environment to work with other volunteers and staff, “I enjoy working at the Emergency Management Agency, and so do the deputies! Everyone here gets along and helps one another” expresses Cordelia.

The Emergency Management Agency is currently looking for volunteers, “We are in desperate need for more volunteers. They would just need to reach out to our phone number, 814-643-6613, and ask for an application. We recently purchased a drone, so we are looking for volunteers to fly and participate with that. If that’s something they’re not interested in, but are still looking to help, then there is always something they would do” explains Cordelia.

If you are interested in enrolling in the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program to become an AmeriCorps Senior, please contact Danielle Ochs by phone at 814-643-4202 ext. 4202 or by email at dochs@ccaofpa.org.



Cordelia Beatty (left), Operations and Training Officer and Station Supervisor and Katie Unger (right), Director of EMA and Station Supervisor

RSVP Station Spotlight – Fort Roberdeau



In 2015, Fort Roberdeau partnered with RSVP and became an RSVP station. Emilie Deffenbaugh, Historic Site Assistant and Station Supervisor, shares the history behind Fort Roberdeau, “Fort Roberdeau Historic Site and Natural Area is a 230-acre county owned park located in Sinking Valley. The centerpiece of the park is the 1976 reconstructed fort on the site of the original log fort built in 1778 by General Daniel Roberdeau. The fort’s purpose was to protect a lead mining and smelting operation on the Central Pennsylvania frontier

during the American Revolution. The fort provided a safe haven for soldiers and settlers throughout the region. On May 29, 1974, the site of Fort Roberdeau was entered into the National Register of Historic Places as a resource worthy of preservation as a part of the cultural heritage of our nation.” Fort Roberdeau is located at 383 Fort Roberdeau Rd, Altoona, PA 16601.

There are many volunteers at Fort Roberdeau who help with activities and events. Out of those volunteers, thirteen are enrolled in RSVP as AmeriCorps Seniors. Emilie explains the duties of the AmeriCorps Seniors, “RSVP volunteers make appearances at the fort to portray the lives of settlers and duties of the Rangers and Militia who patrolled the frontier and protected the settlers. During May and October, RSVP volunteers interpret and demonstrate aspects of frontier and Fort life. RSVP volunteers also help with special events throughout the year, including Distaff Day, Star Spangled Fourth (July 4th), and Revolutionary War Days. Fort Roberdeau’s natural area provides visitors with the opportunity to experience the beauty and diversity of nature. RSVP volunteers help to maintain the fort’s natural area and provide educational events for the public.”



Margaret (Peggy) Fields, AmeriCorps Senior

Emilie expresses her appreciation for the volunteers who help at Fort Roberdeau saying, “Providing diverse educational programs in history and natural sciences wouldn’t be possible without the dedicated service of 38

Glenn Nelson, Director of Fort Roberdeau
and Station Supervisor

volunteers who give their time and expertise to support the fort’s limited staff with programming, maintenance and fundraising. Thirteen of those volunteers appreciate the benefits of participating in RSVP.” Glenn Nelson, Director of Fort Roberdeau and Station Supervisor, said, “Fort Roberdeau volunteers provide the heart and soul of our popular school tour program. The heart is how much they care and enjoy sharing living history experiences with the students. The soul is how much they give to the student experience. The volunteers do such a good job; school sign up a year in advance just to keep their day. I don’t spend a single dollar or minute trying to recruit schools. The volunteers are what keep them coming back. We couldn’t do it without them.”



Emilie states, “I love working at Fort Roberdeau. When I was a young girl, I always talked about working at a living history museum and now I am working at my dream job. My favorite part is getting to share my love of history with the amazing volunteers and staff that we have.”

If anyone is interested in volunteering at Fort Roberdeau, then please contact Emilie Deffenbaugh. Her email is edeffenbaugh@blairco.org and the fort’s phone is 814-946-0048. Since Fort Roberdeau is owned by Blair County, all volunteers must undergo background checks and initial drug screenings.

Light Up the Sky Volunteers!

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July Birthdays



5-Tom Ritchey
7-Joe Krabill
8-Susie Black
11-Tom Gibboney
12-Wally Corcelius Jr.
12-Ginny Gill
12-Kathy Moser
14-Darlene Harella
16-Keith Black
18-Judy McCracken
20-Jack Harman Jr.
20-Frank Huhn
22-Gini Anslinger
23-Bob Spickler
26-Julie Beiswenger
26-Bill Black
26-Marianne Raudabaugh

August Birthdays



1-MJ Smith
3-Barbara Woods
6-Sue Davis
8-Sue Croyle
10-Shirley Mosbey
11-Diane Heffner
11-Sue Reck
12-Terry Rupert
14-Pam Prosser
16-Deb Goss
17-Richard McDermitt
17-Jean Pile
24-Polly Bowers
24-Carol Graham
24-Mark Shope
27-Jay Buchanan
28-Dorothy Anderson
28-Paula Craw
28-Judy Kimberlin
31-Doug Buchanan
31-Kathy Fink
31-Bill Frazier

Answers to What do you know about RSVP?

Below are Answers to the May/June newsletter quiz:

Can you answer the following questions about RSVP?

1. What does RSVP stand for? **RSVP stands for Retired and Senior Volunteer Program.**
2. Who is the sponsoring agency for RSVP of Blair & Huntingdon Counties? **Center for Community Action is the sponsoring agency for RSVP.**
3. How many RSVP stations are there? **There are eleven RSVP stations.**
4. How old must a person be to enroll in RSVP? **Anyone aged 55 and over can enroll in RSVP.**
5. What does it cost to enroll in RSVP? **There is no cost to enroll in RSVP.**
6. Does a person have to be retired to enroll in RSVP? **A person does not have to be retired to enroll in RSVP.**
7. What are volunteers who serve in RSVP called? **Volunteers who serve in RSVP are called AmeriCorps Seniors.**
8. What are the benefits of enrolling in RSVP? **There are many benefits for enrolling in RSVP, some benefits include the annual volunteer recognition event for AmeriCorps Seniors and that AmeriCorps Seniors are provided mileage reimbursement for travel to their RSVP Stations.**
9. What 3 insurance benefits does RSVP provide to volunteers for free? **AmeriCorps Seniors are covered by supplemental accident, personal liability, and excess automobile liability insurances while actively serving in RSVP.**
10. Does RSVP have a Facebook page? **RSVP does have a Facebook page, so please follow if you want to receive RSVP updates and upcoming events in the community!**
11. Who is the RSVP Project Coordinator? **Danielle Ochs is the RSVP Project Coordinator.**
12. How can a person enroll in RSVP? **To enroll in RSVP, contact Danielle Ochs, RSVP Project Coordinator at 814-643-4202 ext. 4202 or dochs@ccaofpa.org.**