

## **Carlsbad Caverns National Park**

Volunteer In Park (V.I.P.)

Volunteer Position Description

*Job Title – Cave Lint Removal*

### **Description of Duties:**

Volunteer will work to help conserve Carlsbad Caverns National Park by removing lint build up from the two self-guided tour areas which include the Main Corridor and the Big Room. To perform this service the volunteers will use a tried and true method of using paint brushes of various sizes to gently remove lint from the cave environment. This work will involve extended time in the cave, kneeling and sitting, exposure to dust and lint, and low light conditions. The volunteer work will be a four hour service project. The first hour will be an introduction to the cave and lint picking. During this hour the volunteer group will learn the history of lint picking, the rules of the cave, gear use, and the dos and don'ts of lint picking. The next 3 hours will be spent on the cave trails removing lint from the cave using CAVE's removal procedures.

### **Working Conditions:**

The temperature in the cave is 56°F and humid year round. Lint removal requires extended time kneeling and sitting on hard surfaces and exposure to lint and dust. While in the cave the volunteer will experience low light conditions.

### **Safety Considerations:**

Lint removal requires a moderately strenuous hike to and from the work sites. This can include a 2.5 mile (roundtrip) on a steep, paved trail with areas that exceed a 20% grade. Once at the job site participants will be required to stoop, bend or sit on hard surfaces for long periods of time. It is not recommended that individuals with heart conditions, breathing problems or joint conditions participate in lint removal.

### **Safety Gear:**

Safety gear will be provided by the park to all volunteers. The gear is *required* to use and includes UIAA rated helmets with attached headlamps, knee pads and rubber gloves. Face masks, eye protection and seat pads will be available for those who want this added gear. The volunteers should bring water, a lunch, and a sweatshirt for the 56 degree temperatures in the cave.

### **Knowledge/Skills/Experience Desired:**

No prior experience is needed.

### **Supervision:**

Volunteers will be supervised at all times by Carlsbad Caverns National Park staff, including Park Guides and/or Park Rangers.