CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Divisions of Boating and Waterways, Historic Preservation and Off-Highway Vehicles

News Release



For Immediate Release May 14, 2015 Contacts:

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Railroad Museum Calls Out for Volunteers Special Drop-In Volunteer Open House on May 30

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Fascinated by railroading history? Interested in working on a train? California State Parks, the California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park (SHP) are now recruiting adults (18 or older) who are interested in volunteering to help communicate the West's fascinating heritage of railroading and the California Gold Rush. For those interested, a special, drop-in Volunteer Open House is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Stanford Gallery located at 111 I Street in Old Sacramento. Volunteer applications are being accepted through Friday, June 5, with an evaluation and interview process immediately following. Volunteer training classes begin on Saturday, June 13, 2015.

Each year, approximately 600 men and women volunteer for the California State Railroad Museum's programs -- including weekend excursion train operations, track construction, restoration and maintenance, even clerical work. A background in history is not required to become a volunteer. In fact, most of the volunteers in the popular program began with little knowledge of railroads or the Gold Rush. As individuals become more familiar with the Museum's varied and frequent programs, many volunteers take on additional responsibilities, such as conducting research or giving talks to community organizations. New docents can choose to work in the Museum interacting with visitors from around the world, working in the railroad restoration shops on rare and unique railroad equipment, work on the Sacramento Southern Railroad, or other jobs in this dynamic and fun environment.

Volunteer training represents a serious commitment of at least 84 volunteer hours annually, but the hours are flexible and the rewards can be tremendous. Docents get perks such as a discount at the Museum Store, preferential and/or early access to selected special events, and the pride of working at North America's finest and most visited railroad museum. Volunteer applications can be downloaded at http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25583. Completed applications can be emailed to allaboard.csrm@parks.ca.gov or mailed/delivered to the Volunteer Coordinator, California State Railroad Museum, 111 I St., Sacramento, CA 95814. More information is available at 916-323-9280 or 916-445-0269.

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