

Volunteer Opportunities



If you would like to enhance your experience, as well as that of future visitors volunteer. Here are a few ways to take action!

Trail Enhancement Assist with maintaining conditions of one of the many trails in the park.

Habitat Enhancement Removal of invasive plants, restoring the native plant garden, maintaining deer enclosures, maintaining and building wildlife habitats and boxes.

Educational Assist the Park Naturalist with educational/interpretive programs and assisting as host in the nature center.

Special Events Assist with handling and planning special events within the park. Harvest festival and music in the park are a few examples that need volunteers to be successful.

...Or simply see the park as a common resource and care for it as your own. Paper at your feet is an opportunity to teach a child to pick it up and clean the litter from our park.

Be a Friend and join with us to make this park the BEST IT CAN BE

Friends of Cowans Gap State Park was formed in August of 2014 as a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). The PPFF is a 501© (3) non-profit organization. Contributions to PPFF are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The official registration of the PPFF may be obtained from the Pa Department of State by calling toll free within PA 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Friends of Cowans Gap
P.O. Box 741
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Park's Office
6235 Aughwick Road
Fort Loudon, PA 17224
717-485-3948

Our Website
Cowansgap.org



The Friends of Cowans Gap State Park exists to preserve, protect and enhance the environment, history, educational and recreational programs of the park and surrounding areas for past, present and future generations through public programs, special events and volunteerism.

2018



What is a Friends Group?

Pennsylvania state parks & forests need help from citizens and non-profit groups willing to commit their time, talents and resources.

A friends group is organized to support, assist and promote the mission and activities of its state park. It works in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation and park management to make Cowans Gap one of the **best in the state**.

National Gold Medal Award for Excellence 2011

OUR GOALS

- Organize Annual Events
- Fundraise for Playground Equipment
- Make Trail Improvements
- Build a Campground Amphitheater
- Help Tend Native Plant Garden
- Purchase Educational Equipment

OUR SPONSORS and PATRONS

- McLaughlin's Drug a Modnur Pharmacy;
- Milky Way Restaurant;
- First Community Bank of Mercersburg;
- Mercersburg Academy;
- All things Automotive; Keystone Outdoors;
- Keystone Orthopedic P.T.;
- Forge Financial; Jennings Chambersburg;
- McConnellsburg Motor & Implement Co.;
- Gartenberg Jewelry; Mercersburg Beverage;
- Romeo's of Mercersburg; Pensinger's Service Station;
- Starr Insurance; Fulton County Medical Foundation;
- Dana Signs; Ludwig's Jewelers Inc.; Ken Shadle Alum Products Inc.; APX Enclosures, Inc.

* Annual accomplishments

- * **Cowans Gap 5K Run/Walk** – Over 250 runners & walkers come out for a family fun lap around the park for trophies made from recycled park resources.
- * **Free Music in the Park** –Three summer concerts with popular bluegrass & country bands.
- * **Art in the Park**– Three events where visitors can paint landscapes of the park to take home. Local artist Nancy Mendes donates her time and expertise to walk participants through their beautiful creations.
- * **Harvest Day Celebration**– Over 1400 guests enjoyed fresh pressed apple cider, hot chocolate, s'mores, camp cooking, pumpkin carving, natural crafts, hay rides, music, tie dye T-shirts, along with nature displays, craft vendors. The day ends with a campsite /cabin campground decorating contest.
- * **Manual labor support** - On Volunteer days, outdoor expo, camp challenge, picnic bench assy., park signage, swim safety rope & handicapped ramp maintenance and cleaning.

One Time Park Purchases

A cider press, a golf cart for staff and volunteer use at the park, along with 2 storage sheds, one to house the cart & another for firewood. A concrete pad for the storage of winter road cinders, a vacuum system for the wood shop, depth-marker buoys for the swim area.

2018 EVENTS

1st Day Hike

Monday, Jan 1

Cowans Gap 5K

Sunday, April 8th

Volunteer/Special Event Days

1st Saturday of each Month, April through September

Music in the Gap

2nd Saturday of each month, June 9, July 14, August 11

Art in the Park

June 23, August 18, October 13

Harvest Day Celebration

Saturday, October 20

Our Membership Meetings

1st Thursday of each month @ 6 p.m.

In the *Cowans Gap Brightbill Interpretative Center* in the months of April through November and the *Carrick United Methodist Church* in the winter months of December through March, located at 7003 Path Valley Rd.(Rt. 75), Fort Loudon, PA 17224. You will receive monthly Event details by our NEWs email.

Annual Membership Application

- **62 and older \$10.00**
- **Individual \$15.00**
- **Family \$25.00**
- **Nonprofit Group \$30.00**
- **Business \$50.00**
- **I'm not joining, but I'm enclosing \$_____ as a donation to FOCG**

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State /Zip _____

Phone _____

email _____

Please make checks payable to PFFF. Include FOCG in the memo line. Mail along with this application to:

FOCG

P.O. Box 741

Chambersburg, PA 17201

***Note that New Applications after August 31- your membership will be valid through the remaining part of that year and the following year. All other memberships will need to be renewed at the beginning of each calendar year.**

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Meeting and working with people of similar interests.
- Option to attend meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month at 6 PM.
- Magnet (Follow My Tracks To Cowans Gap).
- The satisfaction of knowing that your contributions go directly back into Cowans Gap to protect the park's natural resources, as well as enhancing the recreational and educational opportunities of our park.