VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK

San Juan Island
National Historical Park

San Juan Island National Historical Park was created in 1966 to commemorate the mid-19th century issues and events that led to the final settlement of the boundary between the United States and Great Britain.

More than 250,000 people visit each year to learn more about the celebrated "Pig War" crisis, the 12-year joint occupation of the island by British and American troops and how it affected the world we know today. They also come to explore several spectacular trails in hopes of spotting wildlife that includes killer whales and bald eagles.

The park's small staff and dedicated cadre of volunteers strive to:

* Provide a fulfilling park experience by creating a positive environment
* Foster an appreciation of history and nature, using interpretive techniques that provoke, inspire and inform
* Illuminate for the visitor how diplomacy was used to peacefully settle an international dispute that could have led to open warfare.

Our responsibility to preserve our natural and historical resources for future generations, and to provide efficient visitor services today, is only possible through the efforts of committed volunteers. As a prospective volunteer of San Juan Island National Historical Park you will no doubt have a good many questions about what to expect of a VIP tour of duty on the island. The information compiled in this handbook should answer most of those questions.

A Few Basics

San Juan Island, about 16 1/2 miles long and about 6 1/2 miles wide (at its midsection), is the second largest island in the San Juan Archipelago. About 8,000 people are counted full-time residents, but the number swells to twice that in the summer season. The park is the largest public land holding on the island. It is composed of 1,752 acres of prairies, woodlands, sand dunes and beaches, seven historic structures, numerous ruins and a mid-19th century English formal garden, reconstructed in 1972. About 1,223 acres compose American Camp and 529 acres English Camp. The sites are 13 miles apart by county road. Both sites are national historic landmarks. Nine permanent employees, under the leadership of Superintendent Peter Dederich, are scattered among the Administration, Interpretation, Protection, Resource Management and Maintenance divisions.

Administration, telephone (360) 378-2240, is located at park headquarters, 650 Mullis St., Suite 100, in Friday Harbor, and is responsible for park planning, operations, budgeting and personnel management. Administration activates RV site services such as telephone, power and vault pump out and also reimburses ferry fares and other expenses. **Interpretation,** 378-2902**,** oversees visitor center operations, volunteer coordination, summer programming, education, community relations and park publications. Park hosts serve under the Interpretation division, supervised by Chief Interpreter Mike Vouri. **Protection**, 378-2240**,** is responsible for law enforcement, fire fighting and prevention, safety management, the park alarm system, special use activities and resource protection. All emergencies are handled through the Protection division, headed by Chief Ranger Ron Heeren. **Resource Management,** led by Bill Gleason, 378-2240, is responsible for managing and monitoring the park's natural and cultural resources. **Maintenance**, headed by Jerry McElyea, 378-4407, maintains buildings, grounds and trails and mechanized equipment. Work orders are submitted to the maintenance foreman through division managers.

Park Host RV Sites

There are t**wo RV pads each** at American and English camps. Volunteers must provide their own housing, such as a motor home or trailer. The sites are hardened, leveled and graveled with fairly good access for backing and parking. These sites are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis and are free of charge to volunteers who are working 32 hours a week in the park. Assignment to that site does not necessarily mean the volunteer will work exclusively at that site. Trailer pads must be vacated within 48 hours of completion

of your volunteer appointment. If this presents a problem, contact Mike Vouri at 378-2902. Quiet hour are from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. The **electrical systems** at both sites have 50 amp service. However, you may want to to bring surge protectors to cope with the occasional power irregularity. Please remember that electricity is expensive, so try to conserve. Avoid running heaters when away from you RV. **Telephone** connections are provided for local calls only. However, long distance calls are permitted through calling card services. The **potable water** at both sites comes from wells so a good in-line filter is advisable. Be sure to bring plenty of hose connections. The water at American has more than 20 mg of sodium per liter. If you need to be on a low-sodium diet, it will be necessary to purchase drinking water. Gray water and sceptic are held in 1,000 gallon vaults, which must be pumped periodically and trucked off island. Please be conservative in your use of water at all times on the island. The wells and/or sewer system are *not capable* of handling a reverse osmosis water filter system system or in-rig washing machines. A washer and dryer are provided for volunteer use only at the park maintenance facility at English Camp. A rodent-proof receptical is provided at each camp for trash and recycling. Plastic, glass and aluminum may be recycled in this container. Newspaper and cardboard may be recycled at the island refuse transfer station .

American Camp

The sites at **American Camp** are a short distance off the entrance road and set among a grove of Douglas firs. Each pad has a scenic view through the trees and across the meadow to the Strait of Juan De Fuca and the Olympic Peninsula. There is a private picnic area in front of each pad. The pads can accommodate RVs up to 41 feet. The visitor center is about 200 yards from the pads. The center serves as a year-round exhibition area, library and archive and is the administrative center for the Interpretation division.. It has all of the comforts: heat, carpet, refrigerator and restrooms with flush toilets and cold-only tap water. A computer in the office is available for after-hours personal use for volunteers and seasonal employees.

English Camp

At **English Camp**, the sites are just off a dirt service road, about a mile from West Valley Road, set in a quiet glade nestled in the shelter of Garrison Bay. The service road entrance is directly across West Valley Road from the park maintenance facility. The sites are somewhat close together so privacy is limited. The pads can accommodate RVs up to 45 feet and the pads are fully serviced. However, the working conditions in the English Camp visitor center are primitive in comparison with American Camp. The visitor center is located in the former British Royal Marines barracks, a 19th century clapboard structure with two inefficient fireplaces and no insulation. Needless to say, it is chilly when the northern end of the island is socked in with rain and fog, as it can be early in the season. The primary challenge is isolation from the rest of the

interpretive staff. Volunteers and staff at English Camp operate with limited supervision. The law enforcement and maintenance workers visit English Camp on a daily basis and the Interpretive staff somewhat less often. Additionally, English Camp has only vault toilets located about 150 yards across the parade grounds from the barracks or in the parking lot up the hill. Staff must be in good physical condition to work at English Camp. On the plus side, the site has a spectacular formal garden and is the venue for many of the evening programs and the annual Encampment in August. The site has a gas powered golf cart primarily used for transporting disabled and senior visitors between the parking lot and the grounds, but is also available for staff use. The best clam digging and crabbing on San Juan Island is only minutes from the RV pads. The Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (OMSI) conducts a summer youth science camp program at English Camp in conjunction with the National Poark Service. Between 10 and 30 youth attend weekly, from mid-June through mid August, camping in the service area about 100 yards from the volunteer RV sites. The children are given excellent supervision, which has made the camp a positive addition to the summer season.

Living on San Juan Island: Some Basics

American and English camps are 13 miles apart and located six and nine miles, respectively, from Friday Harbor. A complete circle drive around the island is approximately 45 miles.

Public Services: Shower facilities are available in Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor if you do not have these aboard your RV. Again, a complementary washer and dryer unit is located in the park maintenance facility exclusively for VIP use. You are strongly urged to use these machines to help conserve water supplies. Gasoline prices are high on the island, so economical transportation is recommended for commuting on the island. Propane is available on the island, but is more expensive than on the mainland. On-site deliveries are available at an extra cost. RV maintenance services on the island are minimal. **Banks** are conveniently located (ATMs are scattered around Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor), as is the post office and pharmacy. Two **medical clinics** with general practice physicians are in Friday Harbor. Helicopter evacuation (very

expensive) is available in emergencies. The island has an excellent **emergency medical technician** organization with ambulances. Several dentists are in practice on the island. The nearest hospitals are in Anacortes, Mount Vernon, Sedro Wooley and Bellingham, all on the mainland. **Restaurants** abound on the island, along with a brew pub and other watering holes. A full range of **groceries**, including fresh meats, produce and dairy products, are available from two **supermarkets** in or near Friday Harbor and a **general store** in Roche Harbor. Friday Harbor also boasts a two-screen **movie theater** and two convenience stores with **video rentals**. This island does **NOT** have large discount stores or franchise restaurants such as McDonald's. The island has two internet providers, **The Computer Place,** 378-8488 or **Rock Island**, 378-5884. **AOL** connections to the Internet require a long distance call to the mainland. The local library also has internet access.

CLOTHING: The daily work uniform is dark green trousers or slacks and either short- or long- sleeve khaki shirts with epaulets. A matching (if possible) jacket will be necessary on cool mornings or rainy days; a sweater that you can wear in the office or under your jacket also is a good addition. If you chill easily, consider packing thermal underwear! You will be given a name bar and a baseball cap with the NPS Volunteer insignia when you arrive. The park will send each VIP (4) shoulder patches to sew on shirts, sweaters and or a jacket. More are available, if needed when you arrive. Patches should be centered on the left sleeve, one inch below the shoulder seam. Bring comfortable shoes that compliment your uniform, and boots designed for walking over rough terrain and through tall grass and brush. Light canvas and/or coil (spring) heal shoes are not appropriate for working in the park

PETS: Pets are welcome, but a few common courtesies are required. Pets **must be leashed** at all times in the park and are not allowed in park buildings. An off-leash area is located at South Beach, east of the main parking area below the tide line. Do not allow your pet to chase wildlife. Pick up excrement around the pads. Finally, if your pet becomes a problem – i.e., biting or excessive barking – you may be asked to leave.

WILDLIFE AND PESTS: Island wildlife includes mammals such as black-tailed deer, red fox, river otter, mink, raccoon and European hare. Do not feed wildlife. No poisonous snakes or spiders are indigenous to the island, but black widow and brown recluse spiders have been sighted on occasion. Yellow jackets are numerous, especially at English Camp, in late August.

FERRIES: Main access to the island is by Washington State Ferry. Normal crossing for seniors (65+) costs $38.00 for a vehicle and driver and $5.70 per passenger in a vehicle. Non-senior rates are $43.75 and $11.50. Normal crossing time is 1 ½ hours. RVs are charged according to length. The fare may run as high as $200, depending on the size and length of your rig, so please **retain** your Washington State Ferry receipt. You will be promptly reimbursed for the cost of your fare for the initial ferry ride to the island based upon this receipt. ***The park operates on a tight budget. We are unable to pay stipends or reimburse for mileage that may be incurred when driving to work.***

AIRLINES: The island is primarily served by two commuter carriers: San Juan Airlines and Kenmore Air, the latter a float plane service from Lake Union in downtown Seattle. San Juan Airlines flies out of Boeing Field and provides a shuttle to and from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEATAC). Round-trip tickets run about $150 for each carrier. Ground shuttles to SEATAC are available from Friday Harbor and at the Anacortes ferry terminal. The Friday Harbor shuttle operates direct to SEATAC on the 6 a.m. ferry only. It leaves SEATAC about 11 a.m.

MAIL: The mailing address for American Camp is 4666 Cattle Point Rd.., Friday Harbor, WA 98250; at English Camp it is 4585 West Valley Rd.., Friday Harbor, WA 98250. You must advise the Friday Harbor Post Office of your presence on the island before they will deliver to the mailboxes at these addresses. Please do not use the park address for your U.S. Mail, especially packages, during the summer. Packages may be received at the park headquarters address (610 Mullis St., Suite 100, Friday Harbor, WA 98520) through national delivery services such as FedEx, DHL or UPS.

WEATHER: In June and early July, temperatures range in the 60s and 70s (F) during the day and drop into the 50s in the evenings. Rain is not uncommon. Normally it turns warmer and drier in August, though the temperatures rarely exceed 85 degrees. The island is subject to high southwest winds during the summer. The best bet is to bring clothing that can be layered.

Duties

As a Park Host at San Juan Island National Historical Park, you will be working a minimum of 32 hours per week (8:30 am to 5:00 pm) under the supervision of Mike Vouri, the park's chief interpreter and volunteer coordinator. Your primary daily assignment will be working in the assigned visitor Center; however, there are a variety of other interesting activities you may be involved in during your stay.

The National Park Service

Visitor Service/Information: This involves working a rotating tour of duty at the visitor center where assigned. The person performing this service is frequently the initial and often the only contact the visitor has with the National Park Service, so the impression you convey to the park visitor is very important. Your duties will include answering questions (*no matter how trivial*) about the park's cultural and natural resources, giving directions concerning the park and the island, handling NWIA sales of books and related materials, and keeping track of the number of people with whom you talk.

Living History Interpretation: The park hosts are encouraged to participate in living history interpretation. This will put your acting talents to work. Reproduction clothing of the 1860's is available to re-enact camp life at English and American camps. Potential roles include such things as dressing as a U.S. soldier or Royal Marine, black smithing, coopering, camp laundress or possibly represent a visiting dignitary or socialite of the 1860's.

Formal Garden Maintenance/Interpretation: The formal garden at English Camp is a focal point for today's visitor, just as it was for people during the joint occupation. San Juan Island NPS volunteer Wilma Munsey (378-5196) coordinates garden planting activities. Park maintenance oversees the automatic water system for the garden, but the English Camp park hosts are relied upon to ensure the garden is weeded and watered.

Recreation Trail/Site Maintenance: With more than 1750 acres of historic landscape including six historic buildings as well as numerous historic remains, miles of beach front and several trails, there is plenty of work to do. You supply the skill and energy and we provide all the necessary tools and a list of projects. ***Please remember that all work is done with NPS equipment and according to NPS standards and safety measures.*** Check with Mike Vouri, 378-2902, before starting any repair job, no matter how minor. Park grounds and historic structures are protected by federal and state law. No alterations can be made to buildings or grounds without permission. This includes using thumbtacks or finishing nails to post notices or flyers on the barracks walls.

A final, friendly word: Park hosts serve as front-line interpretation staff for the park during the summer and shoulder seasons. While you are officially classified as volunteers, the fact that you are being remunerated with a fully-serviced RV pad in the park places you in the status of employee and subject to supervision. It is important to remember that your contribution, whatever form it takes, will be significant because it will have helped us better serve the visitor and preserve and protect park resources.