

Accessibility Track Chair Program Volunteer

Job Description

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore has over 50 miles of hiking trails on the mainland, the 20-mile Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail, and over 35 miles of Lake Michigan beaches as well as many inland lakes and other facilities that Park visitors use daily. We are committed to making our beaches, trails, picnic areas, and amenities more accessible to people of all abilities.

We recognize that some of our trails and beaches cannot be made universally accessible, so we have created a program to allow Park visitors with mobility issues to use a Track Chair to explore designated trails and beaches. This program is the first of its kind in a National Park, and allows visitors to reserve a Track Chair at no cost. For more information see our website: www.trackchair.org

The volunteer will be scheduled by the Track Chair Coordinator and will meet the visitor and their family at the site, facilitate the training and signing the use agreement, and accompanying the visitor during their use of the Track Chair. The volunteer will also check the chair after use and return it to storage for charging the battery.

Duties of the Accessibility Track Chair Program Volunteer include:

- Meet the visitor and their family at the appointed time and place.
- Review the Track Chair program requirements and obtain signatures on a use agreement.
- Remove the Track Chair from the storage trailer and conduct the pre-hike check to make sure it is in good condition, batteries charged, and all safety equipment is in place.
- Transfer to the Track Chair is not the responsibility of the volunteer. The visitor or their friends and family will manage the transfer to the Track Chair and any other medical assistance required.
- Train the visitor on use of the Track Chair and accompany the visitor and their friends and family on the outing.
- Following the outing, check the condition of the Track Chair and return it to the storage trailer and recharge the batteries for the next use.
- Report volunteer hours via the Friends web site: www.friendsofsleepingbear.org.

Required Experience

Communication skills

Required Training

Provided by Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes

Time Commitment

4 hours per Track Chair outing. The number of outings is dependent upon the volunteer's schedule and interest. We would hope that volunteers would be available at

least 4 times per month during the busy summer season of June – August. The Track Chair program will operate year-around, but we expect fewer requests in the off-peak months.