

## **BARK Ranger Volunteer**

### **Job Description**

Volunteers for the BARK Ranger program and their canine companions serve as ambassadors on National Lakeshore beaches to provide visitors information about the park, highlight pet policies, and pet safety. BARK Rangers will also help to protect the Lakeshore's nesting piping plovers and other shorebirds. You do not have to own a dog to become a BARK Ranger. Training, dog vests and program tee-shirts will be provided. They are asked to work at least one day per week. The volunteer will report volunteer hours and comments after their beach walk is completed using the Friends web site: [www.friendsofsleepingbear.org](http://www.friendsofsleepingbear.org).

Volunteers will be provided with training and a free annual pass to Sleeping Bear Dunes.

The duties of the BARK Ranger volunteer include:

- Receive training on how to interact with Park visitors on the beach.
- Walk your assigned beach, identify visitors with pets, and initiate discussions with them.
- Thank them for following the rules if they have pets in approved areas and on leash.
- If the visitor is not obeying the rules, discuss why dogs need to be on leash – for the safety of the dog, other beach visitors, and Piping Plover.
- Report your volunteer hours and any comments on Friends web site [www.friendsofsleepingbear.org](http://www.friendsofsleepingbear.org) after each assignment.

### **Required Experience**

- Good communication skills
- Access to the internet to make reports of the trail walk on the friends web site.

### **Required Training**

Annual training (done in May or June) is provided by the Law Enforcement and Natural Resource Rangers at Sleeping Bear Dunes.

### **Time Commitment**

1-3 hours per beach walk depending on how many visitor interactions.