

PSAR Volunteer

Job Description

Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR) volunteers spend time interacting with visitors in two problem areas in the park (Dune Climb and Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive). At both locations, PSAR volunteers wear high-visibility orange uniforms and provide vital safety messaging to those recreating in the dunes and those getting ready to head out into the dunes.

Volunteers will be provided with all necessary training, uniform shirt(s) and hat, and a free annual pass to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

PSAR Volunteer Duties:

1. Patrol your selected area and time. There is no set schedule, so patrol when it is convenient for you.
2. Educate Park visitors about the hazards of the area and recommend appropriate equipment and supplies necessary for safely recreating in the dunes.
3. Be aware of recreational and tourist opportunities in and around the park to provide safe and enjoyable alternatives for visitors.
4. Carry a park map, and other PSAR materials to aid in assisting visitors.
5. Complete the PSAR Patrol Report soon after your shift.
6. Contact 911 in case of emergency (Park Rangers are contacted through the 911 system).
7. When available, assist in one of the many special events put on by or supported by the PSAR team (Dune Safety Day, Water Safety Day, Platte River Saturation Patrols, M-22 Challenge, Glen Lake Fire Department Open House, etc.).

Required Experience

Interpersonal skills

Communication skills

Ability to use e-mail and internet

Required Training

Annual Training in Glen Haven: Held towards the end of May, this training provides an overview of the daily operations of the PSAR program (one hour).

Field Training: New volunteers spend time shadowing the PSAR Ranger or a seasoned PSAR Volunteer at both the Dune Climb and on the scenic drive (four hours total, can be split into two shifts).

Time Commitment

PSAR season runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Typical PSAR shifts average between two to four hours in length. Again, there is no set schedule, so patrol when it is convenient for you.