



Your Volunteer Hours Count!



Your volunteer time and expenses that result from any volunteer activities with the Santa Fe Trail Association can be turned into big benefits in several ways. SFTA is able to submit your volunteer information to two organizations—the National Park Service and the Partnership for the National Trails System.



Image description: Trail-building by Douglas County Chapter members to view the Santa Fe Trail Ruts at Black Jack/Ivan Boyd Prairie.

First, as partners of the National Park Service (NPS), we can help turn our volunteer time into funds that can be used toward projects on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. If you are participating in trail business, you are accumulating volunteer hours! When those volunteer hours are turned into the NPS, and the Volunteer-In-Parks program, they become actual dollars that NPS has used to help fund a variety of volunteer activities related to the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. Just a few of the examples include:



- Providing patches used as completion awards for the Jr. Wagon Master program
- Carrying cases for the Chapter Presidents
- Training materials for SFTA Board Members, Chapter Presidents and Committee Chairs, including books on fund-raising, operating a non-profit, etc.
- Items to use in educational display



Our friends at the National Park Service wrap up their fiscal year on Sept. 30 and when that time comes, it means it is time for SFTA to report your volunteer hours. The NPS fiscal year runs from October 1 - September 30.

SFTA also turns in our volunteer information to the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS). These important contributions are compiled for all the partners in the National Trails System into what is known as the "GOLD SHEET". Each year, the "Gold Sheet" is presented to Congress during the annual "Hike the Hill" event held in February and that information is used to leverage continued funding and support for the entire National Trail System, including the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.



What Can You Include?

- Any hours spent on planning, travel, and activity time for attending or providing trail activities such as events, conferences, tours, trail marking, projects, meetings, etc.
- Any expenses that were not reimbursed for planning, travel and activity, including items such as phone call, office supplies, copies, lodging, meals, materials, and supplies for projects.
- Vehicle mileage going to and from SFTA related activities, including conferences, meetings, errands related to projects and chapter activities
- If you are a chapter president or committee chair, please include totals for everyone involved in your group. Please send your totals to SFTA Manager by October 1 at manager@santafetrail.org