



**Southeast Regional Director
David Vela**



The Southeast Region is proud to manage an exciting National Trails & Rails partnership between the National Park Service (NPS) and Amtrak. Trails & Rails utilizes volunteers to reach potential park visitors in a non-traditional setting.

The program hosts NPS representatives, predominantly volunteers, on select Amtrak routes. Volunteers interpret the local natural resource, heritage-based history and issues along the route for rail passengers. This interpretation extends beyond park boundaries, and often provides interpretation of other federal and state conservation units, and local communities.

The Trails & Rails program reaches more than 600,000 passengers annually which includes 575 volunteers contributing more than 32,000 hours at a value of more than \$656,000. The Program currently consists of 19 Amtrak routes with 18 National Park Service Units coordinating separate parts of those routes. As well as volunteer interpreters on board, each program has their own passport stamp and hands-on exhibits. Many routes include a Junior Ranger Program geared for children 6-12 years though all are welcome to participate.

As we look into the future, we hope to expand the Trails & Rails program to include more routes as well as participating parks. We will continue to strive for more opportunities to educate and excite our nation's youth traveling aboard, while instilling an awareness and respect for our country's heritage and resources. On an international scale, we have been contacted by Parcs Canada for assistance and we are looking forward to working with them in creating and implementing a similar program on trains throughout Canada.

National Park Service Trails & Rails contact:
Jim Miculka
979-733-7792
jim_miculka@nps.gov

**Amtrak® Vice President, Marketing and Product Development
Emmett Fremaux**



"Amtrak and the National Park Service have teamed up with a unique program called Trails & Rails. This program gives Amtrak passengers an opportunity to meet representatives of the National Park Service and learn about the area in which they are traveling. Amtrak trains traverse beautiful and culturally significant places in America. These programs create an experience that passengers take away as a lasting memory from their journey on Amtrak."



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Trails & Rails: A Volunteer Program in the National Park Service

Riding a train is a unique and comfortable way to see America. The Trails & Rails Program, an innovative partnership between the National Park Service and Amtrak, strives daily to "create this impression/feeling for passengers." The National Park volunteers and park rangers help to enrich these rail experiences through innovative, interpretive programs that educate passengers about recreational, historical, and natural resources across America.

The National Park Service and Amtrak recognize the need to reach out to the American people. In doing so, this partnership came up with an innovative plan designed to educate as well as share the National Park experience while traveling to various destinations across America. With the help of countless volunteers, the Trails & rails Program provides a unique setting for a better understanding of our natural and cultural resources and the preservation and protection of those resources.



If you are interested in volunteering for the National Park Service, please contact:

Joy Pietschmann, Servicewide Volunteer In-Parks Coordinator,
202-513-7141

Jim Miculka, National Coordinator, Trails & Rails Program,
979-733-7792

Don Wollenhaupt, Chief of Interpretation and Education, Southeast Region,
404-507-5632

You can also call any National Park or visit the website at www.nps.gov/vip

Throughout these programs, park rangers and volunteers:

- Foster an appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage of the area along several Amtrak routes.
- Facilitate connections between the resources and the interests of the rail passengers.
- Reach non-traditional and diverse audiences that do not frequent traditional National Park areas.
- Continue a lasting relationship between the railroads and National Parks which began in the 1880's with the formation of Yellowstone, Glacier, and Grand Canyon National Parks.

Trails & Rails Mission:

Enable Amtrak to enhance the overall experience of customers by offering interpretive programs that educate them about natural and historic content of the scenery, while also creating an awareness in respect for America's "special" places within the National Park System.

History of the Trails & Rails Program

The Trails & Rails idea began back in 1994 with a vision from then Chief of Interpretation, Jim Miculka, at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. Routes ran from New Orleans to Lafayette, LA and Jackson, MS. The program became a national program with the National Park Service in 2000 with the signing of a General Agreement with Amtrak and the National Park Service to operate routes nationwide with

volunteers and rangers onboard to present educational opportunities to the Amtrak passengers. Jim Miculka is currently the National Coordinator of the Program.

Amtrak Passengers Participating in Trails & Rails Program: **3,488,150**

Trails & Rails Programs presented on Amtrak: **73,615**

Volunteer Guides participating in Trails & Rails: **754**

Volunteer Hours donated to Trails & Rails Program: **267,082**

Value of volunteer hours based on the "Independent Sector": **\$5,081,685**



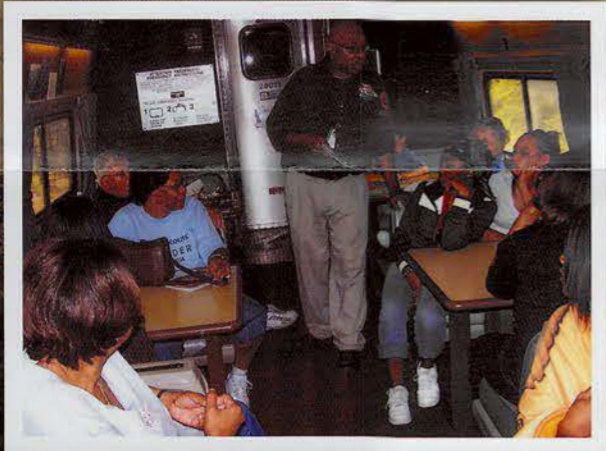
Trails & Rails Partnership with Texas A&M university

The National Park Service (NPS) and the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences (RPTS) at Texas A&M University in College Station entered into a partnership in September 2008 to relocate and house the management and coordination of the National Trails & Rails Program to the University. RPTS has provided and will continue to provide logistical and technical support to the Trails & Rails Program in interpretation, education, marketing, tourism and recreational opportunities. Additionally, the partnership facilitates the efforts of RPTS faculty to work with all NPS units in cooperative research, education and extension projects.



Thus far, the partnership has enabled Texas A&M interns to create: an educational publication, a promotional PowerPoint presentation, and a brochure/rack card for Amtrak passengers, among other projects. In addition, an interpretive training module for use with all Trails & Rails on-board volunteers is close to completion. Undergraduate students in RPTS are currently developing "podcasts" so passengers can listen to a thematic Trails & Rails program on their iPods or other MP3 players.

Texas A&M University Trails & Rails contact:
Susan Scott
Instructor & Internship Coordinator
979-845-5350
susan_g_scott@tamu.edu



Detailed List of Trails & Rails Routes/Locations

- 1 Coast Starlight®**
Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Site
Seattle, WA - Portland, OR
www.nps.gov/klgo
- 2 Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail**
Santa Barbara, CA - San Luis Obispo, CA
www.nps.gov/juba
- 3 California Zephyr®**
Intermountain Regional Office
Denver, CO - Grand Junction, CO
www.nps.gov/colm
- 4 Southwest Chief®**
Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
La Junta, CO - Albuquerque, NM
www.nps.gov/beol
- 5 Sunset Limited®**
Amistad National Recreational Area
Del Rio, TX - Alpine, TX
www.nps.gov/amis
- 6 Texas Eagle®**
San Antonio Missions National Historic Park
San Antonio, TX - Fort Worth, TX
www.nps.gov/saan
- 7 Heartland Flyer®**
Chickasaw National Recreation Area
Oklahoma City, OK - Fort Worth, TX
www.nps.gov/chic

- 8 City of New Orleans®**
New Orleans Jazz Historical Park
New Orleans, LA - Jackson, MS
www.nps.gov/jazz
- 9 Crescent®**
Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site
Atlanta, GA - New Orleans, LA
www.nps.gov/malu
- 10 Lincoln® Service & Missouri Service®**
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
Kansas City, MO - St. Louis, MO
St. Louis, MO - Springfield, IL
www.nps.gov/jeff
- 11 Adirondack®**
Roosevelt - Vanderbilt National Historic Site
Croton - Harmon, NY - Hudson, NY
www.nps.gov/vama
- 12 Saratoga National Historical Park**
Albany, NY - Rouses Point, NY
www.nps.gov/sara
- 13 Maple LeafSM**
Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
Albany, NY - Syracuse, NY
www.nps.gov/erie

- 14 Empire Builder®**
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
Winona, MN - Chicago & Minneapolis - Winona, MN
www.nps.gov/miss
- 15 Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site**
Minot, ND - Shelby/Malta, MT
www.nps.gov/knri
- 16 Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site**
Williston, ND - Shelby, MT
www.nps.gov/fous
- 17 Bear Paw National Battlefield**
Havre, MT - Minot, ND
www.nps.gov/biho
- 18 Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Site**
Seattle, WA - Shelby, MT
www.nps.gov/klgo
- 19 Wolverine®**
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
Chicago, IL - Niles, MI
www.nps.gov/indu

Map Key:

Trails & Rails Routes

Amtrak® Routes



Amtrak passengers are now able to download audio podcasts highlighting the history and sites of interest along the way. Podcasts are accessible via smartphones, computers and "onboard" screens on the Sunset Limited and Texas Eagle

Visit us at: www.nps.gov/trailsandrails