

Continuing Education

Monthly classes will be held on a variety of subjects. The object of these classes is to provide more advanced information than time permits during the initial VIP-Docent training sessions. Attendance will be required for active VIP-Docents; those who miss a class will have the opportunity to view a videotape of the session.



If you would like to receive an application for San Antonio Missions National Historical Park's VIP-Docent Program, please call or write:

National Park Service
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
2202 Roosevelt Avenue
San Antonio, Texas 78210
(210) 534-8833

7/97 x10

How Do I Sign Up?

Contact the Park VIP Coordinator at the Park address, and ask for an application. Applications are accepted year-round, but interviews, selection, and training are offered only once a year. Occasionally, applicants will be accepted at other times if they possess particular skills that the Park is seeking.

"Volunteers are vital to the public's enjoyment of San Antonio Missions. We couldn't do our job without them."

—Superintendent Stephen E. Whitesell

*Funding and support of the VIP-Docent Program has been provided by **Los Compadres de San Antonio Missions National Historical Park**, 6701 San José Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78214 (210) 922-3218*



San Antonio Missions National
Historical Park

VIP-Docent Program



*Through Interpretation, Knowledge
Through Knowledge, Understanding
Through Understanding, Stewardship*

What is a VIP-Docent?

The National Park Service calls its volunteers "VIPs." These fine folks are not only "very important people," they are "Volunteers in Parks." A "docent" is an interpreter—someone who provides informational and educational services for the public in parks, museums, historical areas, and nature centers. At San Antonio Missions, docents and interpreters translate the Park's or site's important themes for visitors.

The primary goal of San Antonio Missions' VIP-Docent Program is to help the public to understand the Spanish Colonial role and impact in the Southwest. Through that understanding, Park visitors will appreciate the significance of the missions, and help to preserve them.



Who are VIP-Docents?

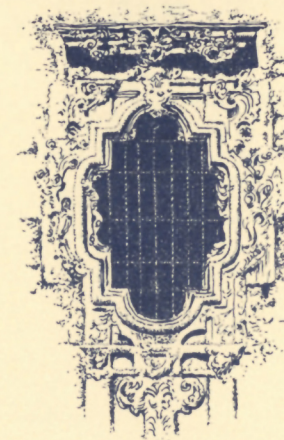
They are public-spirited people of all ages, walks of life, and educational backgrounds. Though they are individually different, they share a common interest—a love of the missions, national parks, and a desire to impart their enthusiasm and knowledge to others. This interest, along with plenty of free time to contribute to the Park, is the basic qualification for the VIP-Docent Program.

Duties of a VIP-Docent

The first responsibility of the VIP-Docent is to spend a minimum of four hours per week in the Park working with the public presenting tours (to the general public and to school groups), giving talks, and staffing visitor information desks. As the VIP-Docent Program develops, we will look toward other options such as outreach programs in the community and at schools.

What Training is Required?

Training classes will be held ^{Spring 2000} most years in the fall, usually late September and October. Classes will be held Monday through Friday during that period, for about two weeks. Classes will be taught by Park staff, subject-matter specialists, and local resource people. The curriculum is coordinated by Park Rangers in the Division of Interpretation, and focuses on areas such as the history of the missions, historic landscapes, history and purpose of the National Park Service and Park management issues, and interpretive techniques. Trainees must receive passing scores on quizzes, and will be expected to prepare and present a short interpretive talk as their "final exam." Trainees are expected to attend all classes, and may only miss up



to eight hours of training, which they must make up through special arrangements. Upon successful completion of the program, trainees will be presented with their VIP-Docent shirt and a diploma.