

## **Would You Like to Be a Docent?**

Docents are highly trained volunteers who interpret the cultural and natural resources of the Sonoma State Historic Park and the Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park.

As docents, we receive training in local history by State Parks, and give free tours to visitors in the Parks. Docents get a chance to talk to people who are visiting Sonoma from all over the world, as well as California schoolchildren, tourists from other parts of the state, California Mission and history aficionados, and special tour groups. Docenting allows you to hear different perspectives on history from visitors, and to share with them the stories about how California came to be. We serve as ambassadors for the State Historic Parks, reaching more visitors than Parks staff members possibly could on their own.

Docents work year round in our Parks in a variety of capacities. Most of us sign up to lead about 4 hours of tours per month, but whether leading tours, demonstrating arts and crafts techniques, or helping with special events, the docents here are special, dynamic people whose assistance is invaluable.

Opportunities for docents to increase their knowledge abound throughout the year. We organize enrichment field trips and lectures, and are actively involved in studying history. Docent meetings and volunteer appreciation events give us time to catch up with each other when we're "off-duty".

If you're curious about the opportunity, take a look at the links below: the Docent Duty Statement and Docent Trainee Process Overview have more detailed descriptions of docent responsibilities.

To see photos from some of our special events, field trips, and lectures, you can visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sonomaparksassociation>

To sign up to be a docent, contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Ari DeMarco. She will tell you when the next training is, and ask you to fill out the Volunteer Application. She is happy to tell you more about docenting, and can even give you a free 1-day pass to attend a docent-led tour, so you can see firsthand what a docent does!

Ari's contact info: (707) 939-2149; [ari.demarco@parks.ca.gov](mailto:ari.demarco@parks.ca.gov)