

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit  
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Thank you for your interest in volunteering at the Nationally Registered Tallac Historic Site on the south shore of Lake Tahoe, California. The Site is unique in many ways, not the least of which is that it is that the USDA Forest Service manages it. It consists of 158 acres with three large summer estates including 28 remaining structures dating from 1884-1923, and the archaeological remains of a resort/casino complex. One of the estates is managed as a museum, one entertains tours and programming, and the third is a community events center managed by a non-profit. Over the past twenty years the Site has grown to over 190,000 annual visitors mostly in the months of July and August.

We encourage your participation! There are many ways to help. Some volunteers take part in the continued preservation, restoration, and maintenance of structures, grounds, artifacts and machinery. Others assist in a variety of museum related activities including staffing or behind the scenes projects. Gardeners of all skill levels love to work in our heritage and demonstration gardens. Those with special interests are often drawn to restoring or repairing portions of the buildings or working on our numerous historic vehicles. There really is something for everyone, at any level of skill or interest!

Although a great deal of progress has been made, thanks to the more than 250,000 hours of generously donated volunteer labor, there is still a great deal to do. In exchange for your help, the agency will provide an RV space at no cost. There are two RV facilities. One on-site, on the lake shore with water and electricity and semi-private baths and showers (at a nearby location). The second facility is 1/3 mile away (not on the lake) with all utilities including sewer. Both sites have limited spaces and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Previous volunteers have suggested there are a few things to consider before applying: (1) The elevation at the Site is 6200 feet which may cause health difficulties; (2) Approximately 33 acres are walked regularly i.e. one should be in fairly good physical condition; (3) The forested setting may be problematic for people with severe allergies; and, (4) the RV spaces located on-site are level but have no concrete.

Our minimum requirement for a RV space is a "session". Sessions vary from 30 to 40 days between mid-May and mid-October. Please contact Jackie (at the information below) if you are interested in the session dates for this year. Each person will be required to work 32 hours per week (four eight-hour days) either Sun-Wed or Wed-Sat. The work is both challenging and fun.

We ask that you to recognize this is not a vacation per se, but an opportunity to preserve, protect and interpret Lake Tahoe's history. There is, however, time to tour and explore on your days off. Our area is rich in both cultural and natural history. Evidence of ancient Washo Indian summer encampments, and the ensuing development of the estates offer a glimpse into the past. The largest grove of old- growth trees in the basin, the adjoining Taylor Creek wildlife marsh, bald

eagle nesting, Forest Service Visitor Center with natural history programs and tours, and the Kokanee salmon migration in the fall all offer visitors the opportunity to see the results of resource management that will affect the future. Additionally, we offer a “field trip” each session to a local site of interest.

Should you decide this is an experience in which you would like to participate, please request an application from me at [jdumin@fs.fed.us](mailto:jdumin@fs.fed.us) If you have any additional questions, please call, (530) 543-2789, or e-mail. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

*Jackie*

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