

Preservation Volunteers, Inc.
Preservation Center
232 East 11^h Street
New York, NEW York 10003

preservation volunteers, Inc. is a 501 (e) (3) not-for-profit tax-exempt corporation

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Preservation Volunteers-the Beginning

The organization now known as Preservation Volunteers grew out of the experience of an American traveler in Normandy, France, in the winter of 1978. He came across a curious site: It was a badly deteriorated 13th century French chateau, its inner courtyard strewn with the giant stone blocks that seven centuries earlier had formed its walls and towers. But the most curious part was this: Crawling all over this site were a number of young people--perhaps twenty or more--at work restoring the old chateau. They were volunteer workers, the traveler was told--architecture students on winter vacation.

Twenty years later, returning to that site--the Chateau Gratot--the traveler saw no stones lying in the courtyard; instead they had been restored to their former place, and the old walls and towers stood now--as much as was possible--re-created. In the old stables, the inner walls were covered with photos and plans showing how the work had been done--all of it through the agency of a Paris-based association named REMPART. This is an acronym for *Union des Associations Pour le Rehabilitation et Entretien des Monuments et du Patrimoine Artistique*--Union for the Restoration and Preservation of Monuments and Artistic Heritage. REMPART, the traveler learned later, has more than 150 sites like this throughout France, and even in Italy and England.

The experience of that American traveler, Everett H. Ortner, published in the newsletter of New York's Brownstone Revival Coalition, led to an exploratory conference, in October, 1999, generously sponsored by the Cultural Division of the French Embassy in New York. Was an organization such as REMPART needed in the United States, the conference was asked. The answer from representatives of 22 leading New York preservation organizations attending the conference was an emphatic YES, and Preservation Volunteers came into being. Modeled after REMPART, PV searches out preservation/ restoration projects that need help--often of a kind or at a place where volunteers are not readily available--and then attempts to recruit volunteers and to supply suitable professional supervision. PV volunteers may be of any age over 18 and offer a variety of skills. Through its continuing link with REMPART, PV also offers restoration opportunities in France.

PV Projects in 2002

In the summer of 2002, PV offered two preservation projects:

*A historic one-room schoolhouse in the Rockies, Gunnison, Colorado, badly deteriorated, that had served for the last 50 or so years as a meeting place for the local cattle ranchers: to say howdy to their neighbors (who often lived miles away), talk about beef prices, have a party, do some country dancing. Now, its roof leaked badly, its floors sagged, its windows leaked, it lacked insulation. PV volunteers, all from France in this case, solved many of those problems. Next year, in 2004, PV expects to send volunteers to finish the job.

*Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.. In its dignified stone mausoleums and under its 458 acres of beautifully maintained rolling lawns, resides a population of some 600,000 men and women, many of national prominence. Politicians and soldiers, builders and destroyers, all lie here. The cemetery, founded in 1835, is an art historian's heaven: Famous architects and artists not only sculpted and designed its monuments but found their final resting place here. But Green-Wood needed--and needs--help. Time has eroded many of its gravestones. Metal figures need restoration. There is still much historic research to be done..

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PV Projects for 2003

*Nantucket, Mass. In this old New England whaling port on an island, the classically styled United Methodist Church, built in 1823, needs restoration. The town has a beautiful 18^h-19th century historic district. It has a splendid beach. It has become enormously fashionable in recent years. There will be two Saturday-through-Saturday two-week work periods: July 19-August 2 and August 2-19. Five volunteers for each period are needed. Three have been allocated to REMPART volunteers. There are openings for two American volunteers in each period. Local residents will supply accommodations.

*Through the New York Historic House Trust, PV expects to assist in restoration work on at least one historic house and probably more, depending on the availability of volunteers and of appropriate accommodations. Local residents are expected to help out here.

*Green-Wood Cemetery would welcome volunteers again in 2003.

*Through PV's special relationship to REMPART, three "work camps" in France are open to American volunteers with a working knowledge of French. (See attached details.)

Volunteers Wanted

PVA welcomes volunteers of any age from 18 on up as long as they are able to work at the tasks for which they have volunteered. Younger volunteers can usually offer physical abilities; older volunteers can frequently offer experience in work that is physically less taxing: artistic restoration, historic research, report-writing, photography. PVA hopes to be able to use a wide range of skills. Here are some specifics concerning volunteers:

* Work periods will *usually* be two weeks.

* Volunteers pay all of their travel expenses, and may be asked to pay a small registration fee (\$100) for PV administrative costs.

* For particular sites, volunteers may be asked to come with sleeping bags. *

Volunteers must have at least a working knowledge of English. * Volunteers are expected to be in good health.

* The normal work week will consist of five eight-hour days followed by two days off, spent however the volunteers desire.

Concerning preservation projects:

To be accepted by Preservation Volunteers:

*Detailed plans must be submitted in advance

* Project managers must be of professional level *

Projects must be backed by sufficient financing

* The project must include a major educational component

* Project hosts must supply appropriate healthful accommodations and meals. * Project hosts must supply appropriate supervision of volunteers

For more information about PVA

For answers to the most commonly asked questions about volunteering or offering projects, write to us at: Preservation Volunteer, Inc., Preservation Center, 232 East 11th Street, New York, NY 10003. FAX us at 718/638-8257. Or E-Mail us at EvOandEvO@aol.com.



REMPART work camps open to PV volunteers Summer 2003

Number of places booked : 10 (5x2)

NB :for accommodation details, please look at the general conditions of the REMPART work camps.

Port-Ste-Marie Monastery (Auvergne)

Location : Chapdes-Beaufort, 25 km from Clermont-Ferrand

Dates :13-27/07

Accommodation : 6

Project : the association is active for the salvage of this monastery from the 13th century. It aims to promote the site and its archaeological heritage. The association has been active for 30 years. **Work** : The volunteers will work on landscaping, cleaning, restoration of traditional dry-stone walls. **Leisure activities** : Visits of churches and historical buildings, hiking. **Participation fees** : 7,40 0 /day

Places booked : 2 for PV

Chateau de Rochebaron (Auvergne)

Location : Bas-en-Basset, 40km from St-Etienne

Dates : 28/07-10/08

Accommodation : 6

Project : The association aims to preserve the remains of this castle built during the 12th century. It organises visits of the castle and various cultural animations (concerts, visits for school classes, etc.). **Work** : The restoration work will be done the summer on the farm (roof, painting, masonry). The volunteers will create also a path around the castle and rebuild a wall. **Leisure activities** : Visits in the surroundings, medieval party, canoe, hiking, calligraphy, *petanque*. **Participation fees** : 80 E

Places booked : 2 for PV

Chateau de Peyrelade (Midi-Pyrenees)

Location : Riviere-sur-Tam, 16 km from Millau

Dates : 15-30/07

Accommodation : 6 (in a school)

Project : the medieval castle of Peyrelade was a ruin before the association took care of its restoration. The association wants also to create and maintain paths on the site.

Work : Restoration of the surrounding walls from the 13th century and of its towers (medieval masonry, stone cutting).

Leisure activities : canoeing on the Tam river, visits of castles and historical site, visit of Millau, meeting with other workcamps.

Participation fees : 7 C / day

Places booked : 2 for PV

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St Jean Church (Languedoc-Roussillon)

Location : St-Jean-de-Maruejols, 60km from Nimes

Dates : 26/07-15/08

Accommodation : 6

Project : the association aims to preserve and restore the village's church. The church will be used by the local associations for cultural and community purposes.

Work : The volunteers will work inside the church in the "chapelle des Comtes" : masonry, stone cutting, carpentry.

Leisure activities : visits of the surroundings, swimming.

Participation fees : 10 11 / day

Places booked : 2 for PV

Asnieres Village (Pays de la Loire)

Location : Asnieres-sur-Vegre, 60km from Le Mans

Dates : 28/07-08/08

Accommodation : 3

Subscription to the association (payable direct to the association on site) : **8 0**

Project : since 1986 the association *Patrimoine d'Asnieres* preserve and restore the built heritage of the village. Lots of school classes from the surroundings come here to visit and learn about heritage preservation. The *manoir de la Cour*, a manor from the 13th century, will be used after its restoration as a cultural center about the local historical monuments.

Work : clearing of the manor's basement, restoration of walls (masonry, coating).

Leisure activities : visits of historical monuments, local parties in villages, biking, hiking, canoe.

Participation fees : **7 0** / day

Places booked : 2 for PV

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Adventure-Seeking Volunteers Wanted

This summer, if all goes well, a small swarm of American college students will descend on New York City, looking to work *without pay* on historic restoration projects. Just as, last summer, a group of young French students came to the United States to work at restoring the stones and monuments in Brooklyn's beautiful Green-Wood Cemetery.

Behind this unusual phenomenon is an organization named Preservation Volunteers (PV), which brings together historic restoration projects and volunteers willing to spend two weeks working on them. The volunteers are both American—typically college students studying art history and architectural preservation—and French, sent by a French association that specializes in preservation. Last year, PV had five students from France working at Green-Wood Cemetery and another group at work turning an old, historic, decaying one-room schoolhouse into a community meeting place in the tiny town of Gunnison, Colorado, high in the Rockies.

For the summer of 2003, Preservation Volunteers has openings for volunteers in, among other sites, the historic whaling port of Nantucket, Mass. (home port of the *Pequod*, in which Captain Ahab set sail in search of Moby-Dick); New York City, where, under the supervision of the Historic House Trust, some 22 historic houses are being restored and maintained; Green-Wood Cemetery, and possibly others.

Volunteers work for the technical experience and, certainly, for the excitement of being in new places and meeting new people. New York City is a favorite attraction for volunteers.

Last summer, 2002, one family contributed to the process by boarding, for the scheduled two-week work period, three young French women, *all students, in their Brooklyn home. Another family took in two*

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VOLUNTEERS--Continued

French students, males. Both families loved the experience. "The kids were really great," one hostess said. "We loved them, and they loved us. It was a special thrill this winter to get New Year's greetings from them."

For the coming summer, Preservation Volunteers is seeking volunteers for the two-week period of July 18 to August 2. Some of these are wanted for projects outside of New York City, and even abroad. PV's companion association in France, REMPART, has a number of projects available to American volunteers. For example:

- *Salvage a 13th-century monastery in the Auvergne region.

- *Preserve the remains of a 12th-century castle, also in the Auvergne.

- *Restore the walls and towers of a medieval castle--the Chateau de Peyrelade--in the Midi-Pyrenees.

- *Restore the *manoir de la Cour*, a 13th-century manor, for use as a cultural center in the Village of Asnieres, in the Pays de la Loire, about 35 miles from Le Mans.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. They pay their own way for travel to these sites, and pay a small registration fee (about \$100). Their U.S. hosts at the site supply accommodations and arrange for board. (In France there is a small daily charge.) In some cases the accommodations may be primitive, and volunteers may be asked to bring their own sleeping bags.

Want to Join?

Want More Information?

For further information, or applications, write to:

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