

Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc.

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SIGN-UP INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FRIENDS DOCENT PROGRAM

A Docent is a person who enjoys enhancing guests experience while visiting the C&TSRR. Docents ride the train, answer questions, point out areas, sights and things of interest along the route and any number of other helpful tasks. A Docent has expert knowledge about the C&TSRR as a living museum. Docents not only know about the railroad, but also about flora & fauna, wildlife, geology, the history and culture of the area. Along with riding the train they may also be assigned for Chama yard duty to greet and talk to people who are driving through and stop to investigate the site. When assigned to the Chama he/she is available to give personalized tours of the train yard area and to explain the various exhibits.

DOCENT REGISTRATION

The Friends Docent program operates daily from the opening day in May, until the closing of the railroad season in October, whether the train(s) runs or not. Historically we have found that July through September are the times when more Docent volunteers are needed. To sign up, **currently active** Docents need to complete the Form **R-2S Special Session & Docent Registration for Volunteers** by filling in the form and column for Docents, project 0400. Complete the entries with your information in the column to include payment and remember to complete and sign the waiver on the second page. Send the form to the Friends office for processing at the address above using USPS, Fax or E-mail. NOTE: If the waiver information or payment is not complete the form will be returned to you for completion.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DOCENT

If you have an interest in history, enjoy talking with people and have the physical stamina required we would like to hear from you. Send an e-mail for more information to docentch@yahoo.com to express your interest. Include a little background, your interests and contact information. Training for the program is provided.

DOCENT SCHEDULING

To help with scheduling, Docents are asked to send their dates of availability to the e-mail address docentch@yahoo.com where they will be entered onto a calendar in the Docent office. Actual work schedules will be handled by the "on-site" **Docent Coordinator** who is responsible for scheduling day to day assignments and handling other docent issues as they occur. Details will follow after project registrations are received.

To keep docents informed of the most current happenings with the program, periodic e-mails will be sent. Access to the Internet, especially e-mail capability, will be important to fully participate in the Docent Program. Please make sure the **Docent Supervisor** has your current e-mail address. The current e-mail address to reach the supervisor is: docentch@yahoo.com

DOCENT WORK LIMITATIONS

The Docent program is more demanding than most people realize. A Docent assigned to work the train will typically put in an eight to ten-hour day and occasionally more. Most of this time requires the docent to be on his/her feet and move throughout a rocking train. This can take quite a toll on the body. We have had a few volunteers ask to be assigned to work only the yard. The length of workdays in the yard is typically shorter and there are more opportunities to sit down during the day. Please indicate in your e-mail if you wish to work only the yard.