



# Pioneer Village Volunteer Guide







## Welcome Volunteers!

Thank you for volunteering with Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department (VCPRD)! We are so thankful you have chosen to spend your valuable time with us helping make Pioneer Village come alive for all ages. We recognize that without our volunteers, the beloved special events held in Pioneer Village would not be possible.

To help new volunteers, we have provided this volunteer guide to assist you in your journey as a Pioneer Village Volunteer. In this guide, you will find information the following items:

### I. Pioneer Village Overview

- This overview includes a map of Pioneer Village and a brief overview of the 1800's pioneer structures in the village.

### II. Benefits of Being A Volunteer

- We want all our volunteers to enjoy their experience while volunteering in Pioneer Village. This section outlines the benefits of being a volunteer in Pioneer Village.

### III. Roles in Pioneer Village

- In order to make Pioneer Village come alive, there are many roles our volunteers and VCPRD staff play. This section includes an overview of the different groups and roles involved behind the scenes in Pioneer Village.

### IV. Pioneer Village Event Calendar

- This section includes a brief overview of the special events and gatherings that take place in Pioneer Village over the course of a calendar year.

### V. Volunteer Expectations

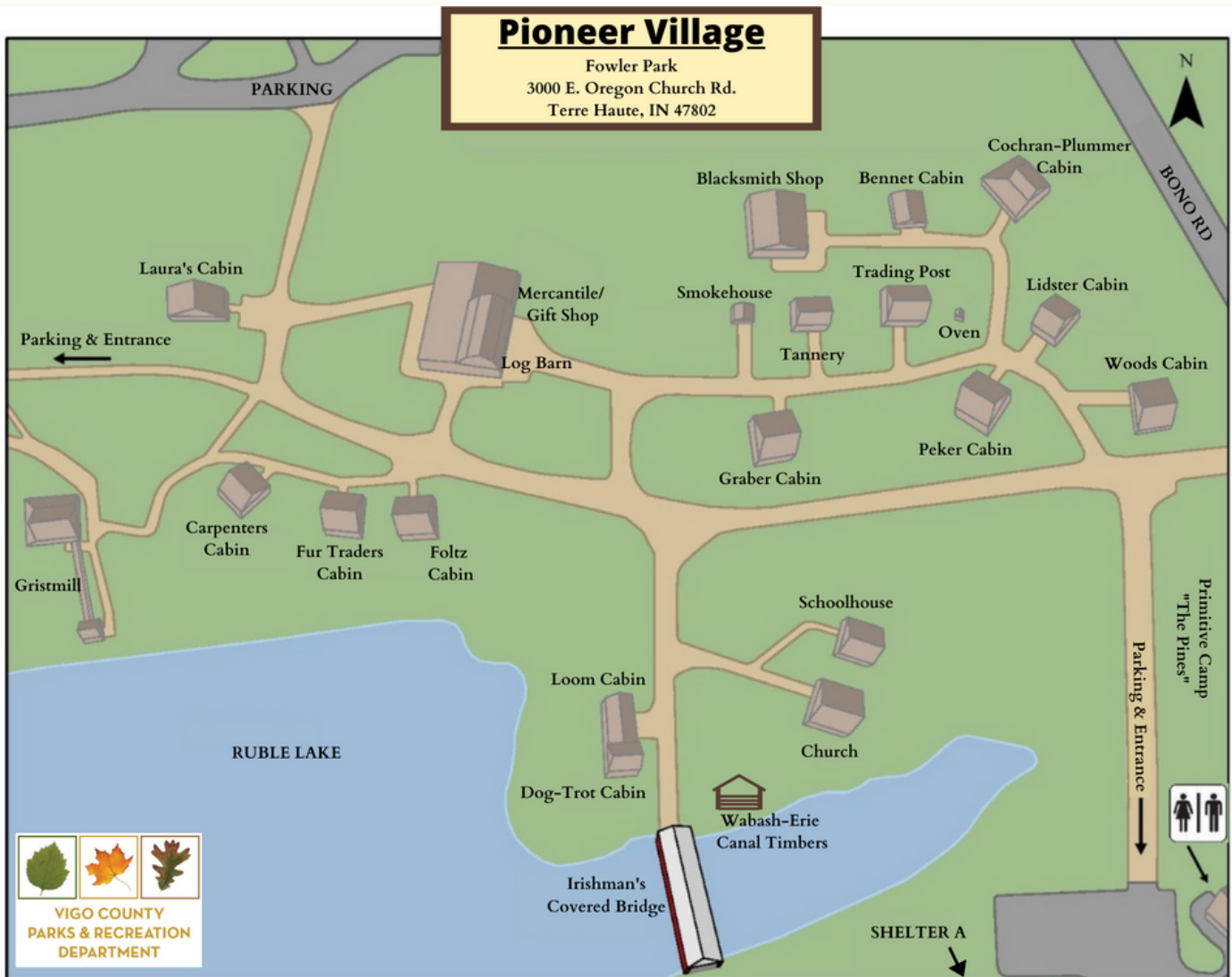
- We continuously strive to provide clear messages and expectations of volunteers to ensure a positive experience for all. This section includes:
  - Volunteer Agreement & Background Check
  - Pioneer Village Conduct and Clothing
  - Pioneer Skills and Activities

### VI. Communications and Contact Information

- This section includes an overview of where to find more information on Pioneer Village, events, and who to contact with questions or concerns.

**Thank you, and we look forward to having you join us for future events and volunteer gatherings!**

## Map of Pioneer Village



## Pioneer Village Cabins & Structures



Woods Cabin

Originally located in Lockport, now Riley, Indiana. Built in 1822. Donated by Dan and Iva Wood's children in 1969 to VCPRD. The Woods Cabin was the first cabin erected in Pioneer Village.



Irishman's Covered Bridge

Originally located three and a half miles southwest of Mt. Pleasant Church on Ferre Road, spanning Honey Creek in Riley Township, Indiana. Built in 1845 and moved to Fowler Park in 1971. The bridge was restored in 2020.



Lidster Cabin

Originally located in Riley, Indiana. Built in the early 1800s. Donated by Ben Lidster to the VCPRD in 1973. Based on the historical features of this style cabin, it is estimated the Lidster Cabin is the oldest cabin in Pioneer Village.





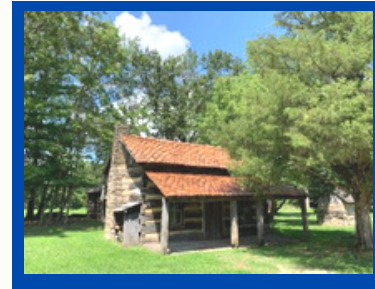
Peker Cabin

Originally located in Sugar Creek Township on Certain Road, two miles south of West Terre Haute, IN. Built in 1834. Donated by the Peker family to VCPRD in 1974.



Graber Cabin

Originally located in Bogard Township, Daviess County, IN. Built in the mid-1800s. Donated by Joel Graber to VCPRD in 1975.



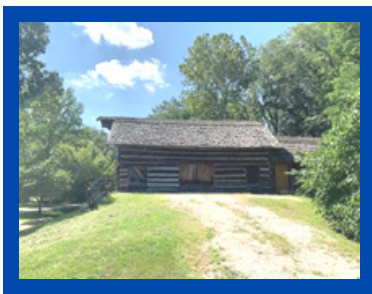
Trading Post

Originally located in the Glendale FWA in Daviess County, IN. The cabin was purchased from Mr. Littell, a Washington, Indiana resident. It was dismantled and moved to Pioneer Village by park staff in 1975.



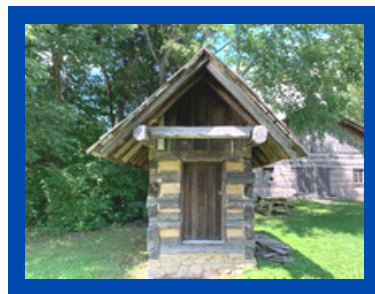
Tannery Cabin

Originally located on the west end of the Glendale FWA in Daviess County, IN. VCPRD was given the cabin by the IDNR through a dismantling agreement. Staff dismantled and rebuilt the cabin in Pioneer Village in 1975.



Log Barn/Mercantile

Originally located in Vermillion County west of St. Bernice, IN. Built in the early to mid-1800s. VCPRD purchased the barn from Cecil Shaw. It was dismantled and moved to Fowler Park Pioneer Village in 1976.



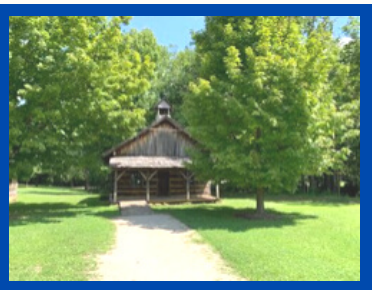
Smokehouse

Originally located east of Fontanet in Nevins Township, Vigo County, IN. The smokehouse was assembled from log home remains donated by the Health Department to VCPRD during the annual Pioneer Days festival in 1978.



Carpenter Cabin

Originally located three miles southeast of Brazil, IN. Donated by Daisy Huggs to VCPRD in 1980.



Church

Originally located east of Staunton with a third of the logs coming from Sullivan County, IN. Built in 1848. Donated by Don Mercer to VCPRD in 1986.



Fur Trader Cabin

Originally located in Newberry, Daviess County, IN. Donated by Ray Malone to VCPRD in 1987.





Gristmill

Built as an authentic replica in 1991. Construction of the gristmill involved the efforts of many volunteers and park staff. Dr. Kicklighter, Dean of ISU School of Technology, spearheaded the effort with assistance from his department as a community project.



Bennet Cabin

Originally located near Marshall, IL, off Highway 1, north of I-70. Built sometime between 1837 and 1858. Donated to VCPRD by Harley Bennet in 1995.



Dogtrot Cabin

Originally located at Hawthorn Mine south of Dugger, IN. The cabin was purchased by the Fowler Village Folk, Inc. from the Peabody Coal Company. The Dogtrot cabins were completed in 1999.



Outdoor Oven

Built by Fowler Village Folk Volunteers in 2005. Construction of the oven was spearheaded by Craig Hummel and Jay Tapy.



Laura's Cabin

Originally located in Goose Pond, south of Linton in Greene County, IN. Built between 1830 and 1840. Donated to VCPRD by Joyce Lakey in 2007.



Blacksmith Shop

Built from logs donated by J.A. Spears in 2008. Houses the popular Intro to Blacksmithing classes hosted by VCPRD & IBA volunteer blacksmiths every fourth Saturday April- October.



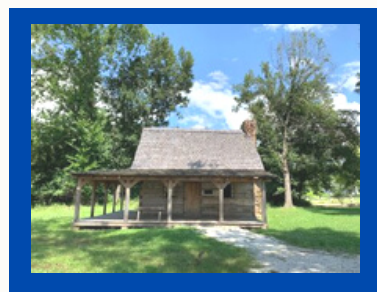
Foltz Cabin

Originally located in Vermillion County, IN. Donated to VCPRD by the Donald E. Foltz family in 2009. Reconstruction in Pioneer Village completed in 2010.



Schoolhouse

The construction of the schoolhouse was funded by the Educational Heritage Association, Inc. of Vigo County (EHA) began in 2007. Over the course of seven years the schoolhouse was officially completed in 2014 and continues to be sponsored by the EHA of Vigo County for all Pioneer Village events.



Cochran-Plummer Cabin

In fall 2017, a donation was made by the Haywood Trust to reclaim a Plummer, IN cabin located in Greene County, IN. This cabin was roughly a match for the original Cochran Cabin structure that tragically burnt down in 2017. The cabin was rebuilt to the same specification as the original Cochran Cabin. VCPRD staff and volunteers reconstructed the Cochran-Plummer cabin in Pioneer Village in winter 2018.



## Benefits of Being A Volunteer

*We want all our volunteers to enjoy their experience while volunteering in Pioneer Village.*

*Below is a list of benefits you can expect as a Pioneer Village Volunteer:*

- You will be providing a valuable historical and cultural resource for the community, park visitors and school groups visiting Pioneer Village.
- Pioneer Village is a great place to spend time with your loved ones by volunteering as a family.
- Meet new people with shared interests.
- Form new friendships with fellow volunteers.
- Enhance the cross generational connection of Wabash Valley early history.
- Learn new skills, crafts and knowledge of pioneer history and the natural environment.
- Access to tools and supplies to learn new skills and engage in demonstrations.
- Share your skills and knowledge with fellow volunteers.
- Volunteer appreciation luncheon and volunteer awards ceremony hosted and provided by VCPRD.
- Participate in free training sessions offered on the third Saturday of the month May-September.
- Demonstrate your skills and knowledge during special events and tours.





## Roles in Pioneer Village

The success of Pioneer Village would not be possible without the efforts of multiple groups including the Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department (VCPRD) staff, the Fowler Village Folk volunteers, Educational Heritage Association volunteers, Indiana Blacksmith Association volunteers and special event volunteers. Each of these groups is described below:

### Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department

- **Natural Resource Programmer**
  - The Natural Resource Programmer is in charge of the VCPRD special events and programs. In addition, the Natural Resource Programmer also manages and is the direct contact for all volunteers and groups affiliated with Pioneer Village. All maintenance issues in the village are to be reported to the Natural Resource Programmer. Keys to cabins are only to be handled by VCPRD, cabin caretakers and the president of the Fowler Village Folk.
- **Recreation Coordinator**
  - The Recreation Coordinator assists the Natural Resource Programmer with all special events. In addition, the Recreation Coordinator is in charge of the newly added special event, Fowler Park After Dark, a Halloween-themed spooky walk in the village.
- **Superintendent**
  - The Natural Resource Programmer and Recreation Coordinator directly report to the Superintendent.
  - All projects in Pioneer Village must first be approved by VCPRD Superintendent.
- **Assistant Superintendent**
  - Project manager of all projects in Pioneer Village.
  - Natural Resource Programmer reports all maintenance reports to Assistant Superintendent.
- **Maintenance Specialists**
  - Fowler Park has three full-time Maintenance Specialists who are on park grounds Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Maintenance Specialists also assist during special events such as Pioneer Days, Christmas Walk and Mini Pioneer Days.
- **Fowler Park Caretaker**
  - The Fowler Park Caretaker lives in the caretaker house on park property. Their role is to watch over the park and open and close gates and restrooms to the park when full-time staff is not present.



## Fowler Village Folk

The Fowler Village Folk, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit volunteer organization that was formed in 1992 to serve and represent VCPRD with the historical interpretation and reenactment in Pioneer Village. The Fowler Village Folk supports the advancement of pioneer arts and crafts by demonstrating said arts and crafts at scheduled functions or other times as mutually agreed between the Fowler Village Folk Board and VCPRD. As a not-for-profit organization, Fowler Village Folk may seek gifts and grants of monies to be used for education, arts, crafts, and promotion of the Fowler Park Pioneer Village.

The Fowler Village Folk also assists VCPRD by sharing information with volunteers and in the planning of special events. All volunteers will receive information from the Fowler Village Folk in addition to VCPRD to ensure all volunteers are in-the-know about village happenings. All volunteers are considered non-voting members of the Fowler Village Folk and are invited to attend the annual Fowler Village Folk meeting in January of each year. For those interested in becoming voting members of the group, please see eligibility below:

- Eligibility for voting membership in Fowler Village Folk, Inc. shall be obtained after one full year or two partial seasons of regular volunteering in the village and upon the approval of the Fowler Village Folk Board. For example: If you volunteer during 2019 Pioneer Days and Christmas Walk in addition to Summer in the Village.
- Fowler Village Folk Board Structure:
  - Officers
    - President
    - Vice President
    - Secretary
    - Treasurer
  - Directors
    - A total of three-to-six (3-6) Directors who are not officers
- Each officer and director must have been a voting member for at least two years. Additionally, each officer shall have served at least one (1) term as Director, unless elected to office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
- The term for each officer and director shall be for two (2) years beginning on February 1 following election. No officer or director shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms, unless additional consecutive terms are approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

*For more information on the Fowler Village Folk, Inc., please contact the  
Fowler Village Folk Secretary/Communications Director, Amber Kerr, at [adkerr26@yahoo.com](mailto:adkerr26@yahoo.com)*





### Cabin Caretakers

Every cabin in Pioneer Village has an assigned cabin caretaker. The responsibilities of the cabin caretaker include taking care of and maintaining the inside and surrounding grounds of the cabin and to report any maintenance issues to the VCPRD Natural Resource Programmer. All caretakers are required to host their cabin during all special events in Pioneer Village including Pioneer Days, Christmas Walk and Pancake Breakfast. If a caretaker cannot attend an event, it is their responsibility to find a suitable replacement and inform VCPRD of this replacement.

Cabin Caretakers are required to sign an annual contract with VCPRD which includes an agreement to attend events, meetings and work days set forth by VCPRD. These workdays always coincide with Fowler Village Folk work days. In addition, cabin caretakers are required to attend the fire safety and emergency procedure training and three historical interpretation trainings offered throughout the year. Cabin Caretakers are given a key to their cabin and are not permitted to make copies of these keys. All key requests must be made directly through the VCPRD Natural Resource Programmer.

### Educational Heritage Association, Inc.

The Educational Heritage Association (EHA) is a non-profit organization with a mission to collect and maintain historical documents, materials, equipment, and facilities that display our educational heritage from the past and to continue this into the future so that citizens can relive this heritage and its impact on their lives and community. Volunteers from the EHA volunteer in Pioneer Village and are responsible for the addition of the Schoolhouse Cabin inside Pioneer Village. EHA volunteers are the village schoolmarm and man the cabin during all special events including co-sponsoring Mini Pioneer Days held in the fall for all Vigo County second graders.

### Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

The Indiana Blacksmithing Association (IBA) volunteers are a group of local blacksmiths that meet in the village Blacksmith Shop every second Saturday to utilize the shop's blacksmithing equipment. IBA members include Pioneer Village volunteers and during their second Saturday meetings often make items needed in PV such as tent stakes, nails, S-hooks, etc.. In addition to providing the village with needed items, members from the group volunteer during special events in Pioneer Village such as Pioneer Days, Christmas Walk and Mini Pioneer Days. Two of the IBA members are long-time Pioneer Village volunteers who also volunteer their time to teach the popular Intro to Blacksmithing class held every fourth Saturday April through November in Pioneer Village.

### Special Events Volunteers

Many volunteers choose to volunteer strictly for special events and do not volunteer outside Mini Pioneer Days, Pioneer Days, Christmas Walk or Pancake Breakfast.



# Pioneer Village Event Calendar

## JANUARY

- **Fowler Village Folk Annual Meeting**
  - The annual Fowler Village Folk Meeting is open to all Pioneer Village volunteers. This meeting is held with the purpose of electing directors when relevant, for hearing officers' reports, and to address all other business relating to Pioneer Village. VCPRD Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Natural Resource Programmer are also in attendance during this meeting. Cabin caretakers are required to attend this meeting.

## FEBRUARY:

- **Pancake Breakfast**
  - The Pancake Breakfast is held on the third Saturday and Sunday of the month in February. Volunteers are asked to help in the kitchen serving food or assisting cabin caretakers in their cabins with historical interpretation and demonstrations.

## APRIL:

- **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**
  - The annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is hosted by VCPRD in honor of all Pioneer Village Volunteers. The luncheon is held at the Log Barn located in Pioneer Village.
- **Village Work Day**
  - The Village Work Day is held the third Saturday in April. Volunteers are asked to come out and help get the village ready for the summer season. Volunteers do not have to dress in period clothing for this event.

## MAY/ JUNE/ JULY/ AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER

- **Summer in the Village**
  - On the third Saturday in each month, volunteers gather in Pioneer Village to offer public tours through the cabins and village. Summer in the Village is also when trainings of pioneer skills and activities will be offered to volunteers.

## SEPTEMBER:

- **Mini Pioneer Days**
  - The last full week in September, VCPRD and Vigo County School Corporation host Mini Pioneer Days for all Vigo County second graders. Volunteers are stationed at different cabins throughout the village to demonstrate and teach early pioneer skills and activities to second graders.

## OCTOBER:

- **Pioneer Days**
  - Pioneer Days is held on the first full weekend in October. Volunteers are asked to volunteer by demonstrating pioneer skills and activities. Applications for volunteers are distributed the first week in April.
- **Fowler Park After Dark**
  - Held on the last Friday of October, Fowler Park After Dark is a Halloween themed spooky walk through Pioneer Village.

## DECEMBER:

- **Christmas Walk**
  - Christmas Walk is held on the first Friday and Saturday evening in December. Volunteers are asked to assist cabin caretakers inside their cabins and demonstrate pioneer activities and skills for the community to observe and participate in. Volunteers are also needed at the log barn in the kitchen and crafting tables.





# Volunteer Expectations

## Volunteer Background Check

All volunteers above the age of eighteen (18) must fill out and submit a volunteer background check form prior to volunteering in Pioneer Village. This is an important step we must take for public and volunteer safety. All volunteer background check forms will be kept confidential and will be done at no cost to the volunteer. Any issues that arise will be handled on a case-by-case basis. To request a background check form, contact VCPRD's Natural Resource Programmer.

## Conduct in Pioneer Village

The time and effort you donate to the Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department as a volunteer in Pioneer Village is deeply appreciated. It is a pleasure to have you as a representative of the parks department. Without your assistance, the village could not come alive for all to enjoy.

- As a villager, you should dress and act according to our village specific time period of 1800-1840.
- No smoking or drinking alcohol is permitted in Pioneer Village at any time.
- Please be in costume while volunteering in Pioneer Village during special events and the third Saturday Summer in the Village events.
- Any concerns regarding a fellow volunteer's dress, activity, or conduct in the village is to be addressed directly to VCPRD Natural Resource Programmer and Fowler Village Folk President.
- Please ensure that no plastic or foam cups or dishes are visible to the public.
- Please do not discard paper plates or cups in fireplaces of cabins. Although paper, these products are not time period appropriate and should not be visible to the public in any form.
- If a fire is needed for you to demonstrate a skill or activity in the Pioneer Village, it must be cleared with the VCPRD Natural Resource Programmer at least one week prior to demonstration.
- The majority of items in the log cabins belong to VCPRD. If you want to borrow something to learn a skill, ask the VCPRD Natural Resource Programmer prior to use.
- If there is a task you need park staff to perform, contact VCPRD Natural Resource Programmer. Park staff is small in numbers and have assigned tasks. When they are interrupted, it often complicates the scheduling of assigned tasks.
- Please conceal your cell phone at all times while volunteering in Pioneer Village during special events and third Saturday Summer in the Village events. Volunteer cellphones must not be visible to the public at any time.



### Clothing

As a pioneer villager, you should dress and act according to our village specific time period of 1800-1840. The typical villager of the Wabash Valley region wore subdued colors-wheat, pale blue, brown. Villagers who were doing well might wear brighter colors indicating their clothes were bought elsewhere and not homemade.

Fowler Village Folk has limited pioneer clothing items located in the Mercantile. Clothing will be available for volunteers to rent. Volunteers are encouraged to check out what items are available for rent by contacting Amber Kerr, Fowler Village Folk Secretary/Communications Director, at [adkerr26@yahoo.com](mailto:adkerr26@yahoo.com).

Below is a list of websites to help assist new volunteers in selecting 1800s-1840s period clothing appropriate for Pioneer Village:

- Townsends
  - <https://www.townsends.us/>
- Smoke & Fire Company
  - <https://www.smoke-fire.com/>
- Crazy Crow Trading Post
  - <https://www.crazycrow.com/site/>
- Samson Historical A Colonial Outfitter
  - <https://www.samsonhistorical.com/>
- Recollections
  - <https://recollections.biz/>
- Maggie May Clothing
  - <https://maggiemayfashions.com/>

### Jewelry & Makeup:

- Jewelry was not typically worn by most villagers. If worn at all, it was often an inherited piece or an indicator of wealth.
- Please do not wear wristwatches as these are not time period appropriate.
- Makeup, if worn at all, should be natural-based.
- Please refrain from wearing nail polish.

### Footwear:

- Authentic footwear may be difficult to come by, try to find footwear that resembles the time period in either a black or brown shoe. Loafers or moccasins blend in well.
- Please no sneakers, tennis shoes, or colorful footwear.





- **Time Period Representation**

- All Pioneer Village volunteers are required to represent the 1800-1840 pioneer era time period reflective of the Wabash Valley historical attributes. Additional resources are available upon request for those interested in learning more about the time period represented in Pioneer Village. Because the time period spans over four decades, volunteers are able to select from a variety of period clothing to reflect their personal interests within the time frame.

- **Skills, Activities & Crafts**

- Volunteers are asked to demonstrate a period appropriate skill, activity or craft during events in Pioneer Village. A list of suggested skills, activities and crafts are included below for volunteers to choose from. If you are interested in demonstrating a skill not included on the list, you will need to contact VCPRD's Natural Resource Programmer and the Fowler Village Folk President for approval.

- |                   |                       |                              |                    |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| ◦ Spinning        | ◦ Cornhusk dolls      | ◦ Spoon making               | ◦ Backwoodsman     |
| ◦ Weaving         | ◦ Felting             | ◦ Log hewing                 | ◦ Woodworking      |
| ◦ Wool dyeing     | ◦ Chair caning        | ◦ Blacksmithing              | ◦ Rail splitting   |
| ◦ Soap making     | ◦ Cider making        | ◦ Barber                     | ◦ Horseshoeing     |
| ◦ Candle making   | ◦ Apply butter making | ◦ Foot lathe (treadle lathe) | ◦ Smoke house      |
| ◦ Cross stitching | ◦ Washing clothes     | ◦ Carpenter                  | ◦ Toy maker        |
| ◦ Herbs           | ◦ Dulcimer player     | ◦ Muzzle-loading guns        | ◦ Hunter           |
| ◦ Quilting        | ◦ Pump organ          | ◦ Bowl maker                 | ◦ Sorghum mill     |
| ◦ Basket making   | ◦ Vine basket making  | ◦ Broom making               | ◦ Pitchfork making |
| ◦ Knitting        | ◦ Tanning             | ◦ Rug hooking                | ◦ Shingle making   |

- **Role Playing**

- In addition to skills, activities and crafts, volunteers are welcome to engage in playing a role and providing village visitors with information and stories relating the pioneer role you are portraying from the 1800-1840 time period. A list of suggested role playing roles are included in the list below. Please note, all schoolmarms and school masters are required to work in conjunction to the schoolmarms of the Educational Heritage Association volunteer group stationed in the schoolhouse. If you are interested in demonstrating a skill not included on the list, you will need to contact VCPRD's Natural Resource Programmer and the Fowler Village Folk President for approval.

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| ◦ School Marm   | ◦ Circuit Preacher |
| ◦ School Master | ◦ Valley Judge     |
| ◦ Storyteller   | ◦ Undertaker       |
| ◦ Fur Trader    | ◦ Native American  |
| ◦ Soldier       | ◦ Barber           |



## Communication & Contact Information

### Fowler Village Folk Newsletter

The Fowler Village Folk Newsletter, "*Fowler Village Gazette*," is sent out quarterly to subscribed volunteers via email and USPS. The newsletter is free and to be used as an information sharing tool. Reminders about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities will be shared in the newsletter in addition to other Pioneer Village related news. To subscribe, contact Amber Kerr, Fowler Village Folk Secretary/Communications Director, at [akerr26@yahoo.com](mailto:akerr26@yahoo.com).

### Fowler Park Pioneer Village Volunteers Facebook Group Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/497420620380204/>

### Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department Website

<http://vigoparks.org/>

### Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2021027231501022/>

### Contact Information:

Laura Maloney

Natural Resource Programmer

Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department

Office Phone: (812) 462-3392

Email: [Laura.Maloney@VigoCounty.in.gov](mailto:Laura.Maloney@VigoCounty.in.gov)

Amber Kerr

Secretary/Communications Director

Fowler Village Folk

Phone: (812)-240-9121

Email: [adkerr26@yahoo.com](mailto:adkerr26@yahoo.com)





**VIGO COUNTY  
PARKS & RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT**