

Howard Hi all. We'll give it a few more minutes before getting started.

jrhaman joined.

Glenn joined.

Lee Howard, how is the weather on the coast

Howard Been in the 80s the last week. Getting cooler tonight.

Lee nice, cold and wet near FT Worth

gwb36 joined.

Roz Is supposed to get in the low thirties in Jacksonville Monday night

jrhaman it's 20 here in Pueblo

RodI joined.

Jim\_I joined.

Howard Yikes Roz. There will be a frost delay at The Players Club. :)

Glenn Of course, I'm coming down

Roz lol

Roz We are cooling things down for you Glenn

Howard All right folks. Let's get started on the topic.

Glenn tnx

Roz It will be warm again my Wednesday

Darrell left.

excel joined.

Howard Clearly I'm not the most experienced workamper, but I think we have some help here.

Howard Who would like to get us started with questions?

jrhaman How hard is it to get a workcamping position with no experience

galeanna Adrian, Michigan 2 inches tonight

Howard Jesse, it's not that hard at all. There are many more positions open than there are workampers.

Darrell joined.

Jenny\_J I would think if you have any type of experience with general public you would be fine

Howard If you have maintenance skills or people skills in general,

you can find positions.

gwb36 Do you have to sign a contract or something?

Glenn what is expected for a normal days work?

Howard With some private employers, you do have to sign contracts. It protects both parties.

Howard Glenn, that is such a broad question. It really depends who the employer is, whether it is a private employer, or volunteer work.

Lee how good is Workamper News? Is it worth a subscription?

Roz yes

Jenny\_J I believe it is

jrhaman that was going to be my next questio Lee

Darrell We have used it a lot

Howard Lee, for anyone that needs to work at least a little bit, Workamper News is definitely worth the subscription.

Roz I like the electronic version, as you get daily updates of new listings

Howard I prefer the Workamper Plus subscription which gives you daily email updates.

Lee that was my next ?

Jenny\_J So do I roz - have read it every day for two years

Darrell We use the workamper plus as well

Jenny\_J i think it gives you more opportunities by having the e mail every day

Howard Workamper.com is by far the best for matching RVers. But there are other websites as well.

Howard Coolworks.com is great as well.

Darrell also you get to post your resume, we have had lots of response to our resumes

sfischer joined.

Howard Volunter.gov/gov is a great site as well for federal jobs - volunteer jobs

Dee joined.

Larry joined.

Howard Coolworks.com includes a lot of contracted concessionnaires for national parks like Yellowstone, etc.

jrhaman Do the federal jobs pay anymore than just a campsite

Darrell There are various opportunities in the private sector as

well.

daniel045 joined.

Darrell

we are talking with RGIS which is a national firm that does inventories

Howard

Jesse, in general the public opportunities like state parks, national parks, wildlife refuges are volunteer only for a site. Maybe a stipend for mileage.

haiku joined.

Jenny\_J

how did you get hold of them darrell i have been trying to reach them

Darrell

You work part time and get to select your schedule. They are hiring lots of people this time of year

jrhaman

I have seen RGIS in many parts of the country

Howard

But some concessionnaires in the parks have paid positions. But they are more hours.

Darrell

We got in touch with them through some friends, but they have an application on line

Jenny\_J

i believe once you get in with them you could have a job almost anywhere

Lee

what is RGIS?

Jenny\_J

inventory in stores etc.

Jenny\_J

mostly like grocery stores

Darrell

They are an inventory sub contractor that does inventories for Wal-Mart and a lot of other big stores

karebear joined.

sfischer left.

Darrell

They will be doing a lot of stores in the Tanger Mall here in Alabama

Howard

Yes, often it is financially more beneficial to take jobs in the public sector away from campgrounds. get a monthly rate at campgrounds and earn higher wages offsite.

Darrell

They are nationwide and once you get in with them can transfer

Jenny\_J

that would be a good job for where you are Darrell

kay joined.

Howard

Have to be careful about state income tax when receiving wages in a state other than residence state.

RodI

What do they pay?

Darrell Yes, we only want to work three or four days a week, about six hours a day and this fits the bill

jrhaman Do you have to claim anything for income tax on volunteer campsites

Darrell They pay \$8 to \$9 per hour.

Jenny\_J so if you figure you want to work full time for awhile in a certain area you should get a job in the local area??

Howard Jesse, it depends first on whether the position is a private position or a public or non-profit.  
kay left.

Darrell Yes, Howard. You are correct. If you are being paid by a state with income tax then you will need to pay taxes

Jenny\_J and get monthly rate on campground??

jrhaman what if it is non-profit

Howard Here is the test for private employers: 1) Campsite must be on employers place of business

Lee Jesse, not if you do not receive a 1099

Roz Our gig is for site only in a small cg in Maine that the site runs 1150 per month

Howard 2) Living on site must be for convenience of employer

Howard 3) Living on site must be a condition to employment

Howard If all three are present, site is NOT taxable

Howard All cash received is taxable and site is taxable if it does not meet the above test.

Howard Just because you do not receive a 1099 doesn't necessarily mean site is not taxable since many employers don't know what they are doing. But it is a good sign most of the time.

Lee If you do not receive a 1099 or a w-2 then they have not reported it to the IRS.

Jim\_I My wife and I were campground hosts at a state park in Il and paid no taxes for it. We were required to stay there.

Howard For non-profits and governmental "volunteer" jobs, if you don't get a 1099 the site is non-taxable. Spoke with three IRS folks on that.

Howard Lee that is correct, but doesn't mean they did it right. :)

jrhaman So what about state tax if you are paid in a state other than you home state

Jim\_I We were paid one dollar a day because we handled money.

Howard Jesse, if that state has state income tax, you have to report

the income earned in that state on a state return there.

Howard The risk of not reporting the value of a campsite is very small, but everyone should be aware of the actual rules just in case it comes up.

jrhaman I can imagine during the course of a year if you workcamped alot you would have many tax returns

Howard You could Jesse. That is why lots of people only work in states with no state income tax OR they just take volunteer positions.

Lee There are limits to what has to be reported. In NC if an employer pays someone less that \$600 per year it does not have to be reported.

Larry left.

Howard Lee, a 1099 does not have to be issued by the employer. That is for their convenience. But the person receiving the benefit is technically required to report the income.

Lee For small change is it not worth the trouble for anyone to track or report including the IRS or state revenue departments.

Jenny\_J jr i dont believe you would have that many jobs in the course of a year

jrhaman Well not me but I was thinking theoretically

Bill joined.

daniel045 left.

Howard Correct Lee. Most folks don't report income less than \$600 because of the 1099s not being required for employers.

Howard Another issue that comes up is whether you are an "employee" or an "independent contractor". Lots of employers don't get that one right.

Howard If you are an employee you should get a W-2 rather than a 1099.

Howard For private employers you should expect to provide 15 - 20 hours of work per week for your site.

Howard But some employers pay all hours worked.

Jenny\_J is that for a single or a couple howard

Darrell It should be ten for a single

Jim\_I Howard is that per person or per couple?

Schuyler What are generally the work requirement for a couple (ie. 1 or both have to work? 20 hrs between the 2 or each?)

Howard Thanks Darrell. Twenty should be per couple.

Darrell Most of the campgrounds that we have been talking to require 15 to 20 hours a week per couple

Roz ditto

Darrell Personally, at minimum wages I feel twenty hours for a site is too much

Darrell We will not accept a position that requires that many hours.

Darrell There are plenty of campgrounds willing to pay all hours worked

Jenny\_J that is what i would want

Darrell Plus give you a site and a few other benefits

gwb36 Are work schedules pretty well defined before being employed?

jrhaman I cannot imagine only have to work those few hours

Howard Theoretically gwb. Always good to get it in writing if going to work a paid position.

Lee good night and Merry Christmas all

jrhaman ditto Lee

Howard I've heard numerous stories of duties and hours changing upon arrival.

Darrell JR, we will volunteer for 15 to 20 hours per week

galeanna thanks for the info lee

Lee left.

gwb36 I think a good contract would be required for me to sign on.

Howard Lots of private employers (campgrounds) want lots more hours than would just cover a campsite.

Darrell With Habitat for Humanity we worked 30 hours a week

RodI Isn't habitat volunteer?

excel left.

Howard Yes gwb. In a perfect world, but a lot of employers are small time or mom & pop shops that don't deal with legalities and paperwork very well. :)

Howard Yes RodI

gwb36 I guess the answer is just be flexible.

Darrell Yes, but they have RV Care-A-Vanners that meet for two week builds and a site is provided

RodI So they expect more hrs

Howard There are lots of volunteer spots out there with Habitat or various other organizations. A great way to give back and get "free" camping.

Roz Our schedule is three hours per day, three days per week for site only.

Darrell There are also mission organizations that provide volunteers with sites

Howard gwb, yes be flexible on formalities but do your homework

Darrell What appeals to us in volunteering is not having a long term commitment. Private campgrounds want you for the season.

karebear With Habitat, do you stay at a resort or onsite where the work is being donw?

Howard We work three days a week for eight hours a day for our site, propane, and laundry at the National Wildlife Refuge.

Darrell Volunteering can be for two weeks, one month, or two months, etc

galeanna Roz I lie the sound of three hrs. a day

galeanna like

Roz We each will put in three hours Wed, Thu, Fri 10 til 3 with hour fro lunch.

Darrell Roz, are you committed for the season?

Roz 4 months

Schuyler Howard, So you and Linda each work 8 hr? (ie 48 man-hours a week?)

galeanna anna & I would agree to that

Roz But we will swap with another couple so as to have a week to go elsewhere in maine

jrhaman where is your position Roz

Howard Yes. A lot of people that workamp say that is way too much for a volunteer job, but it's not hard at all, we save lots of money, and we enjoy what we do.

jrhaman just have to keep an eye out for those gators

Roz south coast of ME at a small, gated cg adults only, no pool, just quiet

Darrell Karebear, Habitat has some sites on the build others in church parking lots, some in campgrounds. Sometimes you have to pay a small amount for the site

Rodl H the time you give is worth way more. you are truely

volunteers

Roz We spent two months there this year and were asked to come join them

Howard Check out [Habitat.org/rv/](http://Habitat.org/rv/)

karebear Thank you Darrell

gwb36 Is it easier or harder to get workcamping at non-private locations?

Howard Yes Rodl, but we cut our expenses by about \$1,000 a month while working. :)

Darrell GWB, we have not found it hard to get positions anywhere. It seems like they all can use the help.

galeanna We are going south west for the winter & back to the Mich. area

galeanna in the summer

Howard I agree. There are many more positions out there than people to take them.

Darrell Gale, where in Michigan

Howard State and national parks are having severe budget cuts, so they will be looking for volunteers more and more.

galeanna Adrian Mi, 35 miles from Ann Arbor

Roz Met two couples at a COE CG in

Roz T

Darrell And the good thing about them is that you can generally get something for a month at a time

Jenny\_J x

Roz TN that loved the hours and the job

gwb36 Even positions at highly desired tourist locations are usually available?

Howard Often, if you find a place you like, you can create a position for yourself just by asking.

galeanna 30 miles from Toledo Ohio

jrhaman Howard, do you plan on working anywhere else in the next year?

Howard Yes Roz. Volunteering at Corps of Engineers (COE) is a good deal.

Darrell We checked out Percy Priest Dam COE parks and they have several openings. Some for host, some for maint, some for visitor centers

Howard Jesse, after we leave here in the middle of Feb, we will be camphosting at Arches Nat'l Park in Moab, UT for March and April.

Roz Howard, what is the bid process for some of the Federal DGs?

AlaRVer joined.

jrhaman Kool

ALAN joined.

Howard Roz, the gov. tends to make all bidding processes for contract work confusing. But we have found that the local officials are very helpful to those that are interested in contracting for COE positions.

haiku Howard, spent a couple of days at Arches last March - it was wonderful, remember your suntan lotion

Howard Most of those contracts are 2 - 3 years and dealing with the federal gov is no picnic for sure. Contracting is a totallly different story than volunteering. :)

haiku How many hours will you be working a week at Arches, and for what?

Howard Looking forward to Arches. We will basically be on call four days and off three on a rotating basis. Mostly we are there to sell firewood, answer questions, and check occupancy daily.

Darrell Rough Gig

Howard We will get our campsite (actually a cabin) and a small stipend. The stipend covers our costs to go into town for laundry, groveries. The campground is 15 miles into the park.

Roz Hey, requires an MBA

Howard groceries

galeanna sounds like a good time Howard

Darrell That's what Judy and I want to do once we retire in two years

RodI Need ur JD for that

Darrell Until then we need to make a little money along the way

haiku Howard - how does one get a gig like that?

Howard Happy to not use that JD much. :)

karebear You'll have to have your parents in for use of the cabin for a week, they will love the area

Howard haiku, networking with other RVers mostly. But the government has a website at [Volunteer.gov/gov](http://Volunteer.gov/gov)

Howard If you do a search on keyword RV to get positions with RV accommodations, you will get about 700 positions that come up

haiku thanks

ALAN We are going to a job fair put on by Workamper in Jan. What questions should we be asking.

Howard Many times if you find a place you like, you can just call and ask for a volunteer coordinator and bypass some of the formal stuff

Bill left.

Jenny\_J left.

Howard ALAN, it depends on what you are wanting to accomplish. But mostly you should ask how many hours are required for the site, how many hours they will require overall, pay rate, ....

Howard whether they pay for all hours worked or just hours above the hours required for campsite, length of commitment (usually a season which might be 3 months up to six months), and duties.

Glenn This has been most informative Howard. Thanks

Howard For those looking for volunteer jobs for a campsite, the state park systems all have some sort of volunteer program. Some states are better than others.

Howard Glenn, sorry I didn't answer your initial question very well. :)

Glenn but the answers were there

Howard Just keep in mind that there are tons of opportunities outside of campgrounds out there.

Darrell Also, ask about shifts and duties. Ask a lot of questions to understand the position fully.

Glenn left.

Howard Some people work Christmas tree stands, pumpkin stands, fireworks, etc. and make good money.

Darrell Look to eliminate surprises, that way you will be most satisfied in the end

Darrell My brother sells Christmas Trees in Lynchburg, Va

Howard Some folks work for Hickory Farms in malls for Christmas or See's Candy - long, long hours but good hourly rates.

ALAN The job fair will offer seminars on the following subjects:  
RV Retirement Planning, Legal & Financial considerations  
of Workamping, Using WKN Online tools, Resume  
Makeover, and Job finding techniques

Darrell I was just going to add that H. It is long hours but it is only  
for six to eight weeks

Jim\_I We have some friends who sold christmas trees and were  
robed at gun point a few days ago.

jrhaman Where is the fair?

Roz Bunch of did very long hours and only for 20 years

Howard Yeah, Jim. Unfortunately that can happen in certain places.

ALAN Job Fair: Mesa, AZ, Jim were your friends in Phx? That  
happened at a tree lot here this week.

Jim\_I They were in Phoenix

Howard Many folks with numbers skills do tax preparation (HR  
Block, etc.) at the beginning of each year and they  
basically earn their expenses for the entire year.

jrhaman Howard, maybe Workamper News would be interested in  
the Big Rally

haiku your kidding - - working a few months can pay the  
expenses for the rest of the year - is that really possible?

Howard Jesse, I have contacted them. Talked to the editor and he  
will be tied up, but they are going to try to send someone.  
Will know more later. :)

Howard haiku, many folks work an intense number of hours in  
short periods to earn quite a bit so they can play the rest of  
the year.

Darrell Yes, we met a couple at Great Escape that made over \$30 a  
season doing tax returns. Keep in mind they have been at it  
awhile

Dee left.

Darrell It takes time to build clientel

haiku ah - - interesting - - do you need any special training for  
that?

Howard They will train anybody.

Darrell H&R Block has a good training program and placement  
after training

Darrell There is a cost for the training however

Darrell But if you're returning to the same area each winter it could  
work out

haiku interesting - thanks for the info

Howard Anybody else here subscribe to Caretaker Gazette (caretaker.org)?  
Dee joined.

Howard Many times caretaker positions are available to RVers.

RodI Thanks for the good info tonight, see ya all later.  
RodI left.

Howard Nite RodI

Darrell Kirk Wood had an interesting caretaker position on a private airport

jrhaman Nite

Roz I have seen a numbe of FBO  
s advertise  
Schuyler left.  
Schuyler joined.

Howard Whew! That was a lot of typing and some good questions.  
Any more?

Howard I'll post a transcript of the whole thing in the Forum.

ALAN where did you see the advert on FBO's?

Roz You need to relax your fingers around a cold glass

Roz WKNews  
Schuyler left.

gwb36 Hope you're not working tomorrow.

Darrell nite all  
Darrell left.

Roz Nite to A

jrhaman I have to get up at 3am for a job in the real world.....but not for long  
gwb36 left.

ALAN Thanks for the info

galeanna thanks howard, good job. This is Gale

Roz Howard, Thanks for your time and everything you do.

Dee Thanks for a good session!

haiku Howard this has been great - thanks very much

Howard Thanks for the good attendance!

Howard Quite welcome everyone.

Roz left.

jrhaman Good night all and a belated to Linda  
ALAN left.

karebear Howard for President!!!! Oh, you're not into working  
anymore, are you?

Howard Well "working" but not WORKING. :)  
jrhaman left.

karebear Thanks for letting me sorta lurk  
Dee left.

Howard No problem kare

Jim\_I Thanks Howard

Howard Good night. Anyone need help getting back to the Lobby?

galeanna yes

karebear Ya, me, I'm a lost soul

Howard Click on Show Rooms above the names on the left. Then  
double click Lobby

galeanna ok tnks

karebear Thank you....and the fee for babysitting is....  
galeanna left.  
karebear left.  
AlaRVer left.

Howard Just click a few google ads. :)  
Jim\_I left.

Howard haiku, still there?

haiku Yeah - I am going over the lobby - thanks again

Howard Nite :)

haiku and also thanks for the great site - - i  
haiku left.  
Howard left.