



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Web: <http://www.heartofthecivilwar.org/newcomer-house-volunteers>

## **Volunteers Sought for Historic Newcomer House Exhibit and Visitor Center at Antietam National Battlefield**

Sharpsburg, MD – The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area seeks volunteers for the 2016 season at the historic [Newcomer House](#), the Heritage Area’s Exhibit and Visitor Center at [Antietam National Battlefield](#).

Volunteers handle daily operations at the house, including orienting visitors to the three-county Heritage Area and providing information about heritage tourism opportunities in the vicinity. No specific knowledge or skills are required, though an interest in Civil War history is encouraged. A volunteer training will take place on Saturday, March 19, followed by an optional familiarization ([FAM](#)) [tour](#) on Wednesday, April 6. Volunteers will also receive mentor training on-site during regular visitor hours.

The Newcomer House is open seasonally: weekends only in April, May, October and November and daily, June-September. Volunteers are expected to work a minimum of six hours per month during the summer season. Public programs will take place approximately one weekend per month. During the National Park Service Centennial in 2016, Antietam will host a number of special programs that volunteers may wish to work.

The Newcomer House, located at 18422 Shepherdstown Pike in Keedysville, is one of only two historic homes on the battlefield open to the public. Its location along the Antietam Creek and astride the Boonsboro Pike made the house a center point of thriving mill complex in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Joshua Newcomer owned the property during the Battle of Antietam in September 1862, the bloodiest one-day battle in American history. It has been restored to its Civil War era appearance following the Secretary of Interior’s standards.

A cooperative agreement between the Antietam National Battlefield, the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area allows for programming, management and maintenance of the Newcomer House. It is the official Visitors Center for the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, which encompasses portions of Washington, Frederick and Carroll Counties. Three exhibit rooms explore the major themes of the heritage area: In the Heat of Battle, On the Home Front, and Beyond the Battlefield.

Those interested in volunteering should contact Newcomer House coordinator Rachel Nichols: 240-308-1740, [rbknichols@gmail.com](mailto:rbknichols@gmail.com).

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