

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Seeks Volunteers for *The Polar Express*™**

Peninsula, Ohio – Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR) is seeking volunteers for its 2016 season of *The Polar Express*™. This program will be offered from Saturday, November 12 through Tuesday, December 20, departing from Rockside Station in Independence, Ohio and Northside Station in Akron, Ohio. The destination is the North Pole, located at the Peninsula Depot.

This holiday program is based on Chris Van Allsburg's enchanting book *The Polar Express*™, about young boy's trip to the North Pole. Children clad in pajamas board the train in Akron or Independence and travel through Cuyahoga Valley National Park to hear the story of the Polar Express, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies, and sing carols on their way to the North Pole. Through the train's windows, children see holiday characters, elves hard at work . . . and Santa!

Volunteers are needed to serve as elf readers, servers, and assistants on board the train, as well as Santa's helpers at the North Pole. Volunteers are also needed to play Santa. All train volunteers are asked to commit to at least four nights on the train; North Pole elves are asked to commit to at least six evenings. Volunteers under the age of 16 must volunteer with an adult. Those under the age of 14 may only volunteer at the North Pole. Volunteer groups are welcome!

Training will be provided. Interested volunteers may complete the online volunteer application at [www.cvsr.com/volunteer](http://www.cvsr.com/volunteer) to receive further information or call the Polar Express Hotline at 800-468-4070 x 236.

All first-year Polar Express volunteers (Elves, Santas and Trainmen) are required to attend one of the following training sessions. This will be a combination of Basic Training and Festive Elf Training. Experienced volunteers are encouraged to attend. The first part of the training will cover the overall program, logistics and necessary paper work. The second part of the training will cover various techniques to effectively engage visitors in the program. Come with some of your most festive ideas and your most festive Elf clothing!

Trainings will be held Wednesday, October 26 and Tuesday, November 1 at 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Happy Days Lodge, 500 W Streetsboro St, Peninsula, OH 44264. We will also offer on-site training if organizations are interested in volunteering in large groups

Thank you in advance for your interest in spreading holiday cheer aboard The Polar Express™!

#### **About Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad**

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR) is a private sector, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer supported organization operating in partnership with Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and is dedicated to the preservation of passenger rail transportation in Cuyahoga Valley and the historic Ohio & Erie Canalway. CVSR has been providing excursion rail service for 42 years. For more information about the railroad, visit [CVSR.com](http://CVSR.com).

## CUYAHOGA VALLEY SCENIC RAILROAD

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