



Volunteer Opportunities (Adult)

Introduction

Volunteers are more important than ever before.

As the National Railroad Museum expands with new programs, exhibits and objects, staffing needs also grow. Much of that staff comes in the form of volunteers who are committed to enriching the Museum and its offerings with their skills and time. Everything from spending a few hours a week doing a project in the archives to assisting in children's programming is helpful – and very much appreciated.

Please feel free to browse our listings of current volunteer needs and contact us with your interests. For additional information, contact Jacqueline D. Frank at (920) 437-7623,x-24 or jdfrank@nationalrrmuseum.org.

Education

Education comprises many things at the National Railroad Museum including tours, outreach and Museum school programs, and special family programming. All require an enjoyment of children of all ages, and usually, only an hour or two of your time.

Outreach Programs

These are special one to two hour programs that are brought to the classroom. They include an interactive talk and use many hands-on activities and props.

School Programs

The Museum offers various school programs detailing specific historical topics. These are often collections or exhibits based, and the guide has the opportunity to interact with the students as they lead them through activities.

Special Programming

Evenings and weekends are opportunities for the Museum to offer unique programming for family audiences. These programs may include lectures, activities, movies, and other interactive elements. This type of programming requires extra people to supervise and assist during the event, as well as occasionally do some preparation prior to it.

Tours

Groups visiting the Museum are offered guided tours as part of the price of admission. Tours are approximately 50 minutes long and are often accompanied by a train ride and a short film. During certain times of the year, the Museum needs several each day to accommodate both groups of adults and children.

Facilities Maintenance

Volunteers may work with the maintenance staff to cut grass, weed and water flower beds, and tend to other gardening tasks. This activity can be scheduled on a regular basis for both groups and individuals or once a year during larger grounds projects.

Library & Archives

While two percent of what the Museum owns is on display at one time, the Curator must account and care for everything else. The remaining collection is in storage and needs to be cleaned, repaired and catalogued. The Curator would like assistance with various inventory, sorting, and cataloging projects. These jobs are best for those who like to work independently or with a partner, and are willing to schedule their time on a regular basis during the week.

Museum Store

The Museum Store is a wonderful place to interact with the public while working in a relaxed environment. Individuals are needed to assist in daily operations as well as during the June special event, A Day Out with



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Thomas™. This five day event requires large groups of individuals to operate the store and outdoor sales venues.

Newsletter

Rail Lines, the Museum's quarterly newsletter, needs feature articles of about 1000 words each for publication. Well researched articles related to the railroad on topics ranging from hobos to art to history are welcome. If you have an idea or subject that you would like to write about, please contact us. We are always looking for articles for upcoming issues.

Office Assistance

On-call office assistance is needed for larger projects such as stuffing envelopes and opening mail.

Photography

The National Railroad Museum always needs photographs of people, events, trains and other objects for use in publicity as well as for its newsletters and website. If you would like to develop your photography skills while donating your time and prints or digital images, we would be happy for your help during evening and weekend events.

Restoration & Maintenance

We continually need to care for our locomotives and rolling stock. If you like working with your hands and have an interest in restoration, the Museum can use your help painting and rebuilding rolling stock or creating a special project.

Special Events

The National Railroad Museum hosts several special events a year. These often draw numerous people and demand large numbers of volunteers to make the event successful. Below is a list of current opportunities available, and the dates for each upcoming event.