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Museum Room Guide and Escort

2021 Volunteer Role Profile

**What is a Room Guide?**

As a Room Guide you will play a crucial role in ensuring the ultimate museum experience for our visitors of all ages. Your knowledge, commitment, and passion will bring to life the displays in our Period Rooms and help give our visitors a truly immersive time. You will welcome visitors to your room, chat to them about the displays, the history of the time, and answer their questions. As part of your role, you will also be a guardian for our collections, helping protect and preserve them for future generations.

As our response to the COVID pandemic and the protective social distancing measures in place, visitors are currently escorted around the Museum in small groups, escorted by a trained Room Guide. As soon as circumstances allow, we will return to the welcome face of a Guide in each of our Period Rooms.

**What’s in it for you?**

* You will join a friendly, like-minded team of enthusiastic volunteers.
* You will create new friendships.
* You will enhance your knowledge of American history and the decorative arts.
* You will meet visitors of all ages, nationalities, and from all walks of life.
* You will be part of one of Bath’s most engaging museums.
* You will benefit from a range of social activities.
* You will enjoy yourself!

**What’s involved?**

* Attending a briefing meeting before the start of your guiding session.
* Welcoming visitors to your assigned Period Room.
* Engaging visitors in conversation and answering their questions.
* Doing all you can to ensure visitors have the best possible time.
* Being aware and respectful of the special needs of visitors living with accessibility, mobility, or learning issues.
* Keeping eyes on the artefacts in our collection to ensure their safety and protection.
* Attending training and knowledge sharing sessions.
* Following the Museum’s Health and Safety Policy and adhering to the Museum’s Volunteer Guidelines.

**This role will suit people who…**

…love interacting with people and helping them enjoy all that the Museum’s main collection has to offer.

…are friendly, outgoing, and confident in speaking to visitors of all ages.

…love history and the decorative arts.

**Extra Information**

**Time commitment**

**Volunteers Manager**

**Training/Resources**

**Expenses**

**What you need to wear/bring**

Minimum of two sessions per month. Museum opening hours are 11am till 4pm ( a five-hour session includes lunch and tea breaks totalling 50 minutes). You will need to allow an extra 15 minutes at the start of the day for the daily briefing.

Sharon Blanchard

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As well as your general induction to the American Museum you will spend time shadowing existing guides, attending training talks, and be given access to extra learning resources to continue with self-guided research.

Out-of-pocket travel costs between home and the Museum will be paid (up to a maximum of £9 per session).

Our dress code is smart casual – layers are recommended within the Museum during colder months.

Coffee/tea and cookies are provided but please bring your own packed lunch (or purchase from the café).

**About the American Museum**

The Museum was founded in 1961 and with its remarkable collection of folk and decorative arts it shows the diverse and complex nature of American traditions. The only museum of Americana outside the United States, it was founded to bring American history and cultures to the people of Britain and Europe.

The Museum tweaked its name in September 2018 to become American Museum & Gardens, marking the launch of the transformed Mount Vernon and new, New American Garden.

**This role is purely voluntary, and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one,**

**or an employment contract.**