

House and Exhibition Guide Volunteer Role Profile

What is a House and Exhibition Guide?

As a House and Exhibition 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 Exhibition and help give our visitors a truly immersive time. You will welcome visitors, chat to them about the collection or exhibition, the history of the museum, and answer their questions. As part of your role, you will also help to look after the security of collection items whilst engaging with visitors, helping protect and preserve them for future generations.

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 space.
- 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

Minimum of two sessions per month. Museum opening hours are 11am till 4pm but shifts vary depending on the space you are looking after. Refreshment and lunch breaks are built into your day. You will need to allow an extra 15 minutes at the start of the day for the daily briefing.

Volunteers Manager

Helen Garrett
volunteering@americanmuseum.org
Telephone: 01225 820868

Training/Resources

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.

Expenses

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

What you need to wear/bring

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.