

# York Museums Trust

York Museums Trust has over 350 active volunteers involved in a range of diverse roles. Every year we receive hundreds of enquiries from people of all ages interested in volunteering or placements.

## Why volunteer?

People volunteer for very different reasons; here are just a few:

- It's the next step up from visiting. You can become involved in behind-the-scenes activities.
- It's fun!
- The 'feel good' factor - it's the support of volunteers that makes the existence of many of the Trust's activities possible.
- It's sociable – you can volunteer with like-minded people and feel part of our community.
- It does wonders for your confidence.
- It's a chance to do something different.
- It's great experience if you're interested in working in a museum or gallery environment and would look great on your CV.

## What do Volunteers do?

- Run collections based activities on gallery for visitors
- Assist with art workshops.
- Research & catalogue some of the collections.
- Steward York Observatory.
- Steward and operate Raindale Mill.
- Steward our Historic Library.
- Assist with events.

And much more!

## How much time do I have to commit to?

The amount of time varies for each role and the role descriptions will give details on the amounts that each role may involve. However, minimum amounts are suggested to help you get the most out of your role. On average people tend to volunteer about once a week or fortnight for either a full day (normally between 10am – 4pm) or half a day (around 10am – 1pm or 1pm – 4pm).

## Do I need qualifications?

You do not need to have any specific qualifications for most of our roles but being enthusiastic and reliable are important qualities. We match volunteers to roles by looking at their skills and experience, interests and suitability.

If you're interested in helping with public-facing roles, you should enjoy meeting new people, have a sense of fun, and be interested in the Museum and our collections. If you're interested in helping out with our 'behind the scenes' roles, then previous knowledge and experience can be advantageous

## Are there any age limits for volunteering?

In general there is no minimum or maximum age with a few exceptions:

- The activity must be suitable for your age and not detrimental to your welfare or education.
- You are unable to make a useful contribution.

- At present, we only accept applications for volunteering from individuals who are 18 and over. Under 18s can apply through our Family Volunteering programme if they have a family member who is over 18 and can volunteer with them.

### **What happens after I apply?**

Once we receive volunteer applications, we look through your interests and skills and match you to our current opportunities. If we have anything suitable we will ask you to come in for an informal meeting, which will help you to find out more about the role, and for us to find out more about you.

Please note that due to high levels of interest, it may take up to 2 weeks for a response.

### **Will I get training?**

Volunteers will get the training they need to carry out their role. For some roles this will be shadowing an experienced member of staff or volunteer, for others there is in-house object handling and customer care sessions as well as specific activity training.

### **Do I get my expenses paid?**

Unfortunately, at present we are not able to pay any expenses for travel or food as part of your regular volunteer role. However, we can often cover reasonable costs for one off events and activities outside of your normal volunteer role.

### **I'm working full-time, can I still volunteer?**

Many of our public facing roles take place every day through the entire year; this includes weekends and school holidays.

### **I am receiving Welfare Benefits, can I still volunteer?**

Yes, but it is your responsibility to tell your Job Centre or Benefits Office.

There is no limit to the number of hours a week that a person can volunteer, so long as they continue to actively seek paid employment, are willing and able to attend interviews, and can start a job at one weeks notice.

If you receive incapacity benefit you may volunteer provided the activity does not conflict with your stated incapacity.

### **Do you accept volunteers from overseas?**

Yes. If you are a citizen of a pre-2005 EU member state, you can volunteer without restriction. Citizens of countries within the European Economic Area [Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland], are also allowed to volunteer.

If you are a citizen from a country which has recently been accessioned into the European Union or outside of the EU, you should seek advice from the UK Border Agency as to your eligibility to volunteer - <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk> .

### **Will I need to have a DBS check?**

We only DBS check volunteers whose roles means they will be in regular and intensive contact with children. For most of our roles, DBS checks are not necessary. Upon applying, you will be informed if the role requires a DBS. The Volunteers Manager will help you complete the paperwork and send it off for you. Any information you provide will be kept confidential.

**Where else can I find volunteering opportunities?**

If you feel that you are not suitable for any opportunities York Museums Trust has to offer, then why not try your local Volunteer Centre or online at [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk) for a wider range of volunteering roles.

**For more information**

Please contact us

Volunteers Manager – Fiona Burton on 01904 650326 or

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Volunteers Coordinator – Amy Lang on 01904 650329 or [amy.lang@ymt.org.uk](mailto:amy.lang@ymt.org.uk)