

# York Museums Trust



## at the Yorkshire Museum

Hands on Here! is a Trust wide programme where volunteers enable visitors to get hands on with real collection objects. At the Yorkshire Museum, we look at objects from our archaeology and natural sciences collection. Each theme has a set of activities which volunteers can choose from.

We run a programme of changing activities throughout the year. Some examples include:



**Fabulous Fossils** - This session looks at a variety of different fossils, some from animals which are still around today, others from those which have long since become extinct. As well as providing visitors with a chance to get up close to the collections, the session also aims to better demonstrate the enormity of geological time and to offer a glimpse at some of the amazing animals which have appeared throughout it.

**Tactile Taxidermy** – This session looks at how many animals are adapted to the particular habitat and conditions they live in.

In museum biology collections, taxidermy is a technique used to preserve the bodies of animals for use in research and education. Many museum collections consist of many Victorian specimens. These give us valuable information about populations of animals in the past and tell us how they have changed, and if they have moved locations.



## **Training**

We provide object handling and customer care training for Hands on Here! volunteers as well as specific training sessions for each of the different activities that we run. All our volunteers receive a full health and safety site induction.

## **Time Commitment**

Hands on Here! sessions are volunteer-led and run during both term time and school holidays. There is a selection of activities for volunteers to choose from; running them on their own or in pairs. Volunteers can run activities from 10am to 1pm and/or 1pm to 4pm every day of the week and it works best when volunteers can commit to a regular slot, eg every Tuesday morning or every Saturday afternoon.

A minimum commitment of one half day activity session per week or fortnight is acceptable, but volunteers who have more time to offer can always be accommodated. Ideally we like volunteers who can commit to the project for at least 6 months, as it can take several weeks to get through the initial training programme.

## **Other essential information**

As a charity, we do not have a budget for travel expenses or meal allowances, so unfortunately we are unable to reimburse travel or subsistence costs incurred by volunteers in the course of their day to day volunteering.

We do cover the cost of all the training and training materials that we provide. All our visitor facing volunteers are required to wear YMT volunteer t shirts and/or sweatshirts and name badges, so that visitors can easily identify them as being the people in the know!