

York Castle Museum



Hands on Here! at York Castle Museum

What will you be doing?

You will be helping us to interpret objects from the collections by facilitating handling with visitors and giving them the opportunity to learn more about social and military history.

What will you gain from volunteering here?

Meet people

Not only will you chat to the public but you will join a team of volunteers, get to know museum staff, and will have access to a range of volunteer events.

Learning something new

With specific training you will learn about the history of York and the wider world through stories of people and objects.

Helping others

You will help visitors to engage with the history and give them a great visitor experience.

Get Active

Visit the museum regularly and enjoy the atmosphere of this thought provoking and fascinating environment.

Who are we looking for?

You do not need to know anything about the collections. If you are over 18, are available for a minimum of 3 hours a week, plus an initial training session, and can say yes to the following questions:

- I am friendly and enthusiastic and like talking to people
- I want to learn more about history and tell visitors about the collections
- I enjoy being part of a team

Then do [apply online](#).

When can you volunteer?

We have sessions from 10:00am until 1:00pm and 1:00pm until 4pm every day of the week and you choose sessions to suit your own schedule.

Who can you talk to about volunteering?

You can either apply online or if you have a specific question you can email the Volunteers Coordinator at:

philip.newton@ymt.org.uk

York Museums Trust was formed on August 1 2002, as an independent charitable trust to manage the museums and gallery service previously run by City of York Council. Supported by the Council, York Museums Trust is responsible for York Art Gallery, York Castle Museum, Yorkshire Museum and Gardens and York St Mary's

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Further information

Background

York Castle Museum was founded by Dr John Kirk in 1938 and houses his extraordinary collection of social history objects, reflecting everyday life in North Yorkshire. One of its renowned displays is the reconstructed Victorian street, Kirkgate, which has been hugely influential in museum displays worldwide.



York Castle Museum is housed in the former Debtors Prison and adjoining Female Prison buildings. The Debtors Prison was built between 1701 and 1705 on a site which had held prisoners since the 1200s. The adjoining Female Prison was built in 1780; both are now Grade 1 listed and are located on part of the city walls which is a scheduled monument. The Museum's name comes from the fact that it stands on the site of York Castle.

Hands on Here! is a Trust wide programme where staff and volunteers demonstrate and interpret objects from our collections to visitors. At the Castle Museum there are two broad themes: Military and Social. Each theme has a set of activities which volunteers can choose from.

Military activities include weapons, medals and equipment and is run in our First World War gallery *1914: When the world Changed forever*. Social history activities run in our First War gallery as well as the *Shaping the Body* gallery. These activities have a range of objects including clothing, toys, accessories and sporting equipment.

Training

You will be given training on object handling and customer care followed by one to one training on gallery with our volunteers training assistant and buddy sessions with experienced volunteers.

Time Commitment

We can have up to two volunteers for each session. There are morning sessions (10:00 – 13:00) and an afternoon sessions (13:00 – 16:00) every day. We usually asked for a minimum of one session a fortnight.

Other essential information

As a charity, we do not have a budget for expenses, 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 not have a uniform but we do ask you to wear smart-casual clothing with no large logo's or heavy patterns. You will be given an ID badge which you must wear when inside the building.



**HANDS
ON
Here!**

