

FAIRFAX STATION RR MUSEUM: GUIDELINES FOR TEEN VOLUNTEERS



The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum relies heavily on the contributions of our younger volunteers. High school students reconstructed the Station from its original location in 1987. Teen volunteers have made their impact evident more recently through grounds maintenance, artifact restoration, video and social media projects.

The Station accepts high school volunteers who are in search of educational projects to fulfill their public school service requirements. We encourage students to volunteer on a regular basis as their schedules permit. Regular volunteer service time allows both the student and the museum to identify ways in which students can make meaningful and enjoyable contributions to the museum's programs.

Students will pair with an experienced volunteer so they can learn operating procedures and become comfortable with their peers. There is no minimum or maximum time contribution. Volunteer coordinators will work with students to identify time periods when they are available. We try to have schedule flexibility understanding that students face many time commitments. We will verify student volunteer hours contributed during summer months for the following academic year.

Typically, student volunteers begin their volunteer periods by assisting experienced volunteers in opening and closing the Station during operation hours. As experience and an understanding of the Station's program are accumulated, other tasks might include:

- Assisting with special programs such as our Hands On and Activities Days;
- Assisting with group tours of the Station;
- Contributing to educational displays with museum artifacts;
- Assisting with Gift Shop inventory, displays and operations;
- Work in various capacities during special events such as the Holiday Train Show;
- Assisting with grounds maintenance;
- Distributing flyers and ads for special events and,
- Supporting social media campaigns to increase Facebook and Twitter followers.

Depending on student volunteer interests, more advanced projects might include the following:

- Display design and preparation;
- Artifact inventory and documentation;
- Artifact restoration and preservation;
- Assistance with, or creation of special exhibits and events;
- Development of inter-active, educational activities and exhibits suitable for K-12 ages;
- Web site design; development of online sales and marketing;
- Custom videos illustrating historic themes of the museum;
- Publication design and layout;
- Gift shop merchandise plans;
- Development of community outreach initiatives; and
- Performance art centering on the museum's historical themes.

The Station will work with student volunteers to identify specific projects and activities that might suit their particular interests and capabilities.