

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM: **FULLERSBURG CAMPUS (GRAUE MILL)**

POSITION TITLE: **Artisan Interpreter**
COMMITMENT: **Monthly (6 hrs/month April-November)**
LOCATION: **Graue Mill and Museum, Oak Brook IL**
APPLICATION DEADLINE: **November 1**
MINIMUM AGE: **18**

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE POSITION

This position involves assisting staff in demonstrating and interpreting different artisan techniques that took place during the 19th century, especially during 1850-1860 when Graue Mill was a strong economic factor in the Fullersburg Community. Volunteers may need to climb stairs to reach the location of the spinning wheel and the loom since there is no elevator in the building. Volunteers will also be interacting with the public and responding to questions and requests for information informally. Additional direction is given from Staff.

PRIMARY VOLUNTEER DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED

- Commit to shadowing current volunteers several times and assist in the interpretation until a comfort level is achieved.
- Commit to volunteering monthly after orientation, training, and shadowing.
- Greet facility visitors and take initiative in engaging guests in active interpretation.
- Demonstrate and interpret spinning, weaving or other artisan techniques during tours and special events.
- Learn and demonstrate some additional nineteenth-century domestic art skills like cooking, house chores and handiwork.
- Learn about upcoming events at the mill and include them in your interpretation.
- Assist staff with the development, preparation, maintenance and implementation of educational programs using a variety of mediums to educate the public.
- Assist in maintaining the appearance of the Graue Mill and Museum.
- Assist with special events related to Graue Mill and Museum, Fullersburg Woods Campus, and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

Safety guidelines must be followed by volunteers and will be communicated by staff. These may include volunteers wearing masks and gloves, social distancing, and assisting with sanitizing supplies and equipment. Additional safety guidelines may be added for the safety of volunteers, staff, and the public.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Required knowledge is provided at mandatory trainings and orientations and in the volunteer interpretation materials. Additional skills needed are: ability to interact positively with the public and staff, effective communication skills, ability to interpret and apply written and verbal instructions, desire to learn historical spinning techniques, interest in local history, willingness to learn from staff and accept feedback. Must enjoy talking with people of all ages.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The physical demands described here are representative of what we ask volunteers to perform if able. While volunteering, the volunteer is regularly required to sit; stand; walk; climb stairs; use hands to feel, finger or handle; reach with hands and arms; talk and hear. The volunteer is occasionally required to balance or stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl, smell and lift and/or move 10-25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this position include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception and ability to adjust focus.

VOLUNTEER ENVIRONMENT

The volunteer environment characteristics described here are representative of those a volunteer encounters while performing the duties of the volunteer position.

The volunteer is regularly exposed to warm - hot conditions in summer months and cool conditions during spring and fall. The volunteer is occasionally exposed to humid conditions. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate. Climbing stairs up and down is required, as this mill does not have an elevator. The volunteer often performs duties in dim or low light common in the 19th century time period.

PROVISIONS

This is an unpaid volunteer position, which exists to assist staff and to provide supplemental support for the District programs. This position is undertaken freely on the part of the volunteer with no payment or expectation of payment of salaries, wages, compensation or other types of benefits. The District may from time to time alter or terminate volunteer positions and programs. Volunteer status may be changed or discontinued at any time and for any reason, including a volunteer's failure to comply with District's ordinances, policies and direction governing conduct in the performance of volunteer duties in the field or on District premises.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Volunteer Services Program at the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is to engage volunteers who are willing to donate their time, talents and resources to support the programs and staff in carrying out the mission, purpose, and guiding principles of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and the volunteer program.

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY MISSION

As mandated by the Illinois Downstate Forest Preserve Act, our mission is "to acquire and hold lands containing forests, prairies, wetlands, and associated plant communities or lands capable of being restored to such natural conditions for the purpose of protecting and preserving the flora, fauna and scenic beauty for the education, pleasure and recreation of its citizens."

PURPOSE

To acquire, preserve, protect and restore the natural resources in DuPage County while providing opportunities for people to connect with nature.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Stewardship, Sustainability, Community Engagement, Innovation, Empowerment, and Diversity & Inclusion. Visit dupageforest.org to learn more.

For more information contact the Volunteer Services Department at (630) 933-7233 M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.