



Learning and Engagement Volunteer

Role description

Volunteer role: Learning and Engagement Facilitator

Help to create fun and engaging learning experiences for museum visitors at the Scottish Fisheries Museum, by helping with workshops and outreach activities tied to the Museum's collection and exhibitions.

Location: The Scottish Fisheries Museum

Supervisor: Learning and Engagement Officer

About the museum:

Founded in the old fishing town of Anstruther, Fife, the Scottish Fisheries Museum Trust first opened on the 4th of July 1969. This area has long been associated with the fishing industry, and the Museum explores the history and heritage of the boats, the fish, and the folk. The Recognised Collections explain the development and variety of vessels and fishing methods used for different species of fish throughout history around the coast and islands of Scotland. The displays also illustrate the working and domestic lives of the fishermen, fisherlasses, and children who all contributed to the fishing industry.

About the role:

We are looking for creative people to help deliver and create exciting learning activities. These include school workshops, family activities and visitor events. Volunteers will be given relevant training and supported in their activities by the Learning and Engagement Officer.

Learning Volunteers will be trained to deliver activities for visitors at the museum and off site as outreach. The activities could include arts and crafts, object handling and stalls at community festivals.

We are keen to learn from volunteers and we welcome volunteers to share any arts or crafts expertise they have. This could be anything, such as storytelling, basket weaving, boatbuilding or something else.

This is a great opportunity for someone who wants to gain experience, develop skills and confidence. Previous experience is not required as training and support will be given. We are happy to chat with volunteers about their needs and adapt roles to suit them.

**The key tasks will include:**

- Supporting the Learning and Engagement Officer to develop and deliver events and workshops.
- Working with members of the public providing visitors with a positive learning experience.
- Supporting Museum staff in acting as a point of welcome for all visitors to events/activities.
- Encourage and help event participants to take part in activities in a helpful and friendly way.
- Help set up and tidy away after activities.
- Keeping up to date on Museum's current exhibitions and projects.
- Assisting the Museum staff in safeguarding the security of visitors, staff, volunteers, and Museum collections, and report any hazards, near misses and incidents.
- Adhering to the Scottish Fisheries Museum Trust's policies and to standards of best practice.

Hours and timeframe:

- Minimum two events per year (outreach events typically last 2 hours and in-house events typically last 2-4 hours depending on the event)
- Preferences and availability can be discussed in more detail with the Learning and Engagement Officer.

The role requires:

- An interest in history
- An interest in working with members of the public
- A willingness to learn new things including crafts, historical facts, and the stories behind the museum collection.

This role may require a Disclosure check depending on the type of engagement volunteers wish to deliver. This is confidential and previous convictions may not be a barrier to someone volunteering. Information will be kept confidential. The Scottish Fisheries Museum Team will support volunteers in completing applications. Volunteers will not have to cover the cost of this.

We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds, including those facing barriers to volunteering, people living with disabilities and with additional support needs, people from ethnic minority backgrounds, refugees, and those who identify as LGBTQI+.

Volunteer Benefits

Volunteers will be part of the friendly team, develop skills and gain experience in a museum. After three months volunteers can ask for a reference. We will also provide plenty of tea and coffee.



Travel Information

A bus stop is directly outside the museum. Buses to and from Anstruther are operated by Stagecoach including X60 service between Edinburgh and St. Andrews and 95 service between St Andrews and Leven. Both buses run hourly.

There are two public pay and display car parks in 150 yards of the museum with 4 disabled bays. Both car parks are pay and display from April to September and are free during the rest of the year. There is no charge for blue badge holders.

The Museum will reimburse pre-approved travel or out-of-pocket expenses incurred for the purpose of volunteering.

Support/training:

Volunteers will be given an induction and training for all aspects of the role by the Scottish Fisheries Museum Team. They will be supported in their role by the Learning and Engagement Officer as a key point of contact. We are happy to chat with volunteers about their needs and adapt roles to suit them.

Accessibility:

The museum is wheelchair accessible with ramp access to every gallery space except from the Fisherman's Cottage. A disabled toilet is situated at the main entrance and is accessed via the museum shop. Seating is available throughout the museum. An 'Access Guide' and 'Visual Story' can be downloaded from the museum website at <https://bit.ly/3Om8uBh>.

Application process:

There are multiple ways to initially apply – phone call, email or in person followed by informal chat with the Learning and Engagement Officer. All volunteers need to complete our Volunteer Application Form. We can support those who need help completing the form by chatting through it either by telephone, a Zoom call or in-person.

For further information about the role please contact Julia Branch, Learning and Engagement Officer on 01333 310628 or julia@scotfishmuseum.org.