

Role Description: Pawnee Earth Lodge Exhibition Host

7.2022

Overview

Pawnee Earth Lodge Exhibition Hosts use hands-on materials to interpret the story of the past, present, and future of Pawnee Nation. This role reflects an ongoing collaboration with the Pawnee Nation Cultural Resources Division to share Pawnee culture with Museum visitors. The centerpiece of this experience is the immersive Pawnee Earth Lodge and Exhibition Hosts are trained on how to use the Lodge and its contents to talk with visitors about Pawnee life and culture both in the past and today.

Docents who complete the required training and meet the basic certification requirements staff the Pawnee Earth Lodge gallery within the *Native Truths: Our Voices, Our Stories* exhibition. Exhibition Hosts generally work in pairs and interact with visitors who drop in to the Lodge. Volunteers may engage with visitors while standing, but seating is also available.

About the Pawnee Earth Lodge

The Pawnee Earth Lodge was built in 1977 as the result of a collaboration with the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma and the Field Museum. The Lodge represents a typical Pawnee home in the 1850s in Nebraska, the Pawnee homelands. In 2022 half of the lodge was reconceived to include contemporary items that represent Pawnee culture today. Today the Lodge tells a story of Pawnee life in the past and present, showing how cultural traditions continue and change over time. All the furnishings in the Lodge are meant to be touched by visitors and is a unique hands-on experience for all ages.

Volunteer qualifications

- Excitement to share both historic and contemporary hands-on items with visitors of all ages
- Openness to not only share facts but to lead open-ended conversations, potentially about difficult or challenging topics
- Enthusiasm to learn new content, and potentially unlearn information now considered inaccurate or offensive
- Comfort with sharing specific information that was learned from the Pawnee Cultural Resources Division, a unit of the Pawnee Nation government
- Be at least 18 years of age and have completed high school or equivalent ([teen volunteer opportunities are available here](#))

Hours and time commitment

- This role is available every day of the week from 10am to 3pm.
- During weekdays hours may vary depending on field trip bookings when the Lodge is closed to drop-in visitors.
- Volunteers commit to volunteering at least 5 hours per month.

Fall 2022 cohort training and certification schedule:

- Application deadline for fall cohort: August 31
- In-person group interviews: September 4-9
- Notification of acceptance: September 12
- Virtual orientation: Thursday, September 15: 7-8pm, or watch recording later
- In-person visitor engagement training: Sunday, September 18: 9:30am-2pm

- Self-study and observation-based training: September 15 - October 15
- All volunteers must complete a demonstration-based certification after completing their training