

Role Description: Pawnee Earth Lodge Field Trip Docent

7.2022

Overview

Pawnee Earth Lodge Field Trip Docents 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 Field Trip Docents are trained on how to use the Lodge and its contents to talk with school groups about Pawnee life and culture in the past and present day.

Field trip visits to the Pawnee Earth Lodge are formatted to meet student learning needs and educational standards, as well as accurately represent Pawnee life and culture.

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

- Experience working with student groups, teaching in a classroom setting, and/or group management skills
- Ability to escort groups from the main hall of the museum to the Pawnee Earth Lodge
- 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 most needed on weekdays during the school year, September-May
- Typical hours are between 9am and 1pm
- Volunteers commit to volunteering at least 5 hours per month during the school year

Training and certification

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