



## Natural History Museum of Utah Volunteer Program Paleontology Gallery Interpreter Position

**NHMU Mission:** The Natural History Museum of Utah illuminates the natural world and the place of humans within it. Gallery Interpreter volunteers play a critical role in sparking excitement, curiosity, and an appreciation for the natural world in Museum guests.

**Position Summary:** Gallery Interpreters are an essential part of the Museum experience. They bring the exhibits to life, helping to create lasting impressions of both natural history and current scientific research. In this position, volunteers will engage the curious minds of our visitors, with the thrill of discovery. Specifically, Paleontology Gallery Interpreters will create a positive atmosphere for guest interaction using conversation, demonstrations, specimens or hands-on activities. Volunteers will interact with guests in the *Past Worlds* or *Land* exhibits, helping visitors discover their own interests and supporting them in exploring those curiosities.

Volunteers may be asked to assist with the training of new Gallery Interpreters. Volunteers will have the opportunity to assist with NHMU Special Event programming as opportunities arise. Gallery Interpreter volunteers must be willing to participate in one-one-one meetings with the coordinator to ensure performance. Volunteers are encouraged to attend NHMU Continuing Education programs for volunteers (see below).

**Other Benefits:** Volunteers at the Natural History Museum of Utah expand their knowledge of the natural world through specialized training, enjoy behind-the-scenes access, and interact with the Museum's research staff. They broaden their social circle by making connections with fellow volunteers, Museum staff, and Museum guests; they contribute to scientific research, and make an impact in increasing scientific literacy and awareness in the local community, and beyond. This is a particularly great role for anyone pursuing a career in science, education, or nonprofit work. This role ensures a front-row seat to the inner workings of a world-class Museum, and a great opportunity for career connections and mentoring!

In addition, the Museum offers the following benefits:

- Volunteer t-shirt and nametag
- Free admission into the museum
- Two free guest passes for every 25 hours of service
- Museum membership discount
- Discount at Museum Store
- Use of the volunteer lounge
- Continuing Education programs, including lectures and tours
- Professional development opportunities
- Invitation to social and recognition events

**Department:** Adult and Gallery Programs, Education and Community Engagement

**Supervisor:** Dane Crowton, Public Programs Coordinator (he/him/his)



**Skills/Abilities:**

- Professionalism and presence
- Excellent communication skills; good listener and confident speaker
- Enjoys speaking with the general public
- Interest in science
- Ability to be courteous, respectful, and patient with visitors
- Punctual, reliable, responsible, and dependable
- Adaptable and creative
- Cooperative nature; ability to accept instruction and correction
- Desire to learn as well as teach
- Willingness to participate in ongoing education to develop skills and knowledge
- Ability to do independent training and research online

**Training Required:** All volunteers are required to complete an Online Volunteer Orientation, which should take about 1 hour to complete from home, and a 75-minute On-Site Museum Orientation. Gallery Interpreters (G.I.s) are required to attend a 2-hour G.I. Basics class. Following G.I. Basics, volunteers must complete the G.I. Self-Guided Training Packet, which includes tasks to be done both on-site and independently at home. Finally, volunteers will shadow two current G.I.'s. All training is completed at the volunteer's own pace, within three months of completing the G.I. Basics class.

**Training Schedule:**

Online Volunteer Orientation, to be completed at home

On-Site Museum Orientation, 75 minutes, RSVP required:

- Offered weekly, to be scheduled after completion of Online Volunteer Orientation

G.I. Basics Class, 2 hours RSVP required:

- To be scheduled with volunteer and supervisor

G.I. Self-Guided Training:

- To be completed at volunteers own pace, 3-month deadline to complete

G.I. Shadowing:

- Date 1: TBD by G.I.
- Date 2: TBD by G.I.

**Shifts Available:**

- Weekdays, 10:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. OR 12:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., weekly
- Weekends, 10:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. OR 12:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., every other week

**Time Commitment:** 1 shift per week (or every other week for weekend shifts), for a one-year term

**Age Requirement:** 16 years or older

**Background checks** are required for all volunteers 18 years and older

**Accommodations** available for volunteers

Participants 16 and older, [click here to apply!](#)

Thank you for your interest in the Natural History Museum of Utah!  
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