

Natural History Museum of Utah Volunteer Program Statewide Community Outreach Position

NHMU Mission: The Natural History Museum of Utah illuminates the natural world and the place of humans within it. Statewide Community Outreach Volunteers play a critical role in sparking curiosity about the natural world and encouraging science learning through local community activities.

Position Summary: Community Outreach volunteers are a hugely important factor in providing Utah communities with exceptional and memorable experiences with science and the natural world. Trained in science content and hands-on activities, they bring the Museum out into the community, helping to create lasting impressions of both natural history and current scientific research for the public. Through this volunteer engagement, an individual has the unique opportunity to get their foot in the door at NHMU, and to engage curious minds with the thrill of discovery.

Specifically, Community Outreach volunteers will represent the Museum at various community events including Community Science Nights at Zions banks, local festivals, tabling at libraries and various other events with hands-on activities and educational kits. Volunteers will facilitate mostly OFFSITE activities and will help with set up and take down for these events. Volunteers will be responsible for engaging the community in activities while encouraging people to learn and discover content related to natural history. Training will be provided on various activities for the events along with basic information about the Museum. Volunteers are expected to be able and willing to interact with the public, including people of diverse ages, backgrounds, ethnicities, gender identities, sexual orientations, socioeconomic backgrounds, religions, abilities, and family configurations. The Museum can provide transportation to all events, if needed.

Other Benefits: Volunteers at the Natural History Museum of Utah expand their knowledge of the natural world through specialized trainings, 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 innerworkings 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: Community Programs, Education and Community Engagement

Supervisor: Jacob Osborne, Statewide Community Outreach Coordinator

Skills and Abilities (includes responsibilities):

- Professionalism and presence
- Good oral communication skills
- Outgoing and enthusiastic about natural sciences
- Enjoy working with the public of all ages—*must be comfortable working with children*
- Ability to be courteous, respectful, and patient with visitors
- Punctual, reliable, responsible, dependable
- Desire to learn as well as teach
- Interest in representing the Museum to the community
- Willingness to travel to events across the state of Utah, museum transportation can be provided
- Ability to stay overnight for certain events, when applicable
- Able to work nights and weekends, in addition to weekday events
- Cell phone required
- Ability to stand for 2-3 hours, preferred
- Ability to lift object up to 25 pounds, preferred
- Ability to speak another language is a plus

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. Community Outreach volunteers will also either attend a training (preferred) OR thoroughly read all documents related to the position, schedule and programming. Volunteers will also receive activity training prior to events in person (preferred) OR will be directed to an online training resource to brush up on their knowledge necessary for interpretation. Defensive Driver Training may be required of any volunteer who will drive to events.

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

Community Outreach Training

- TBD

Activities Training

- Upon request

Defensive Driver Training

- To be completed online

Time Commitment: At least 3 Traveling Treasures Community Science nights or 4 Community Outreach events per year; one-year commitment

Age Requirement: 18 years or older for individuals; families welcome to volunteer together

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

Participants 18 and older, [click here to apply!](#)

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