

COLUMBIA RIVER  
**MARITIME MUSEUM**  
ASTORIA • OREGON

**CRMM Docent Program**

Objective: The goal of the docent is to carefully research and share information about the maritime history, culture, and art of the Columbia River, its tributaries, and the waters of the North Pacific for the education and enjoyment of the public.

**Gallery Docent:** These volunteers are specialists who share their knowledge of a specific exhibit or gallery with guests. These volunteers have been trained in our CRMM Docent Training and spend their time educating guests about one area of the museum rather than doing a full tour of the museum. Gallery Docents usually spend 1.5- 2 hours on shifts.

The volunteer must be comfortable speaking with small groups of museum guests.

The volunteer must complete a four-week docent training program and attend behind-the-scenes trainings and DEAI trainings as offered.

Docents develop and deliver engaging talks to groups of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds with awareness and respect for the diverse needs of our visitors.

General duties:

- The volunteer will develop a good working knowledge of the museum: its history, exhibits, and updates for renovations and/or special events.
- The volunteer will develop knowledge about an exhibit or artifact that is often on the volunteer's own time.
- The volunteer will make every effort to ensure that information is communicated effectively to visitors as they pass through the exhibits on self-guided tours.
- The volunteer will be able to speak clearly, make eye contact, and use welcoming body language as outlined in the CRMM Docent Training.
- The volunteer will make every effort to be aware of accessibility offerings for visitors and be able to assist with connecting the guest with what they need or staff who can help provide it.
- The volunteer will check in with the Front Desk Staff to let them know what gallery they will be in.

- The volunteer will be comfortable answering questions or providing access to additional information when guests ask.

Training: Docent training is offered twice each year in the spring and fall. These four-week training sessions are required along with attending other training sessions to develop docent skills. Docents should be willing to spend their own time to become familiar with an exhibit or artifact and do their own research/reading to be able to offer guests an enriched experience.

Time Commitment: Gallery docents are regularly scheduled on the Volunteer Opportunities Calendars, especially during times when the museum is likely to have many visitors such as during Spring Break, Winter Break, Cruise Ship season, and during the summer. Docents should visit the museum regularly and stay up to date on museum projects and additions.

Who to Report to: Education Department or Volunteer Coordinator