

COLUMBIA RIVER
MARITIME MUSEUM
ASTORIA ◊ OREGON

Lightship *Columbia* Volunteer Positions

Lightship *Columbia* Docent:

Objective: The Lightship *Columbia* is the museum's largest artifact. Docents welcome visitors aboard and give them a brief history and safety talk before letting them explore the vessel on their own.

New volunteers will shadow veteran docents (as coordinated by the Volunteer Coordinator) or staff at least twice before taking a shift on their own.

The volunteer will need to be able to walk on uneven pavement and navigate the stairs on the gangway and onboard the vessel.

Volunteers will learn the basic history of the Lightship *Columbia* with accuracy and will be able to speak with small groups of visitors to educate them. Volunteers need to be comfortable with speaking in front of small groups and capable of clearly communicating about the Lightship *Columbia*. Volunteers will be able to answer basic questions about the vessel.

General duties:

- The volunteer will greet visitors, ensure they have Boarding Passes, and give them a short talk about the history of the Lightship *Columbia* as well as brief them on safety while on board (using ladders/stairs, watch head and feet, and being aware of young children especially with concern for the enclosure netting around the outside/deck area).
- The volunteer will work primarily in the "doghouse" on deck. The volunteers will sign in and record weather, tides, and record the visitor count in the logbook on the desk. Note the logbook's guidelines at the top of each page for when to close the ship. Use the radio to notify staff if conditions to close the ship are present.
- The volunteer will arrive about 10-15 minutes before their shift time to check in with the Front Desk and Volunteer Coordinator where they will learn about any groups in the museum or other special instructions for the day. Be sure to take the key with you if

you are opening the lightship and be sure to return it to the Volunteer Office if you are on the final shift of the day.

- Docents will attend safety protocol meetings and other trainings as requested by the museum and are expected to follow all safety protocols.

Training: Training for the Lightship includes shadowing other docents and/or staff (as coordinated by the Volunteer Coordinator) as well as learning about the history of the lightship and being able to talk about it from memory. Docents are required to attend safety protocol trainings and other training sessions.

Time Commitment: Shifts are 2 hours long (11:00-1:00 and 1:00-3:00). There is no running water on the ship, so please radio or call the museum if you need a break.

Department/Who to Report to: Volunteer Coordinator or Education Department Director