

UW-Stevens Point Museum of Natural History

Volunteer Information

Frequently Asked Questions:

What do Museum Volunteers do?

Museum Volunteers lead small group tours through the museum, sharing information about the various exhibits.

Do I need experience?

No! We will have you shadow an experienced volunteer until you feel comfortable leading your own small group tour.

Do I need to be a biology or wildlife major?

No! We provide you with all the information you need to give a well-informed small group tour.

Will you work around my class schedule?

Yes! When tours are scheduled, volunteers receive an email asking if they are available to help. If you have class at that time, simply reply that you are unavailable for that specific tour.

What skills will I learn as a Museum Volunteer?

Volunteering at the museum is a great opportunity to practice your communications skills. You will also have the chance to enhance your time management and teamwork skills.

Is there a minimum amount of time required?

Due to the training required, we ask that volunteers commit to a minimum of three tours per semester. However, volunteers may choose to participate in the tours that fit into their schedule.

Do I need to fill out any forms?

Museum staff and volunteers are asked to consent to a background check because we work with minors.

Why Volunteer?

- Make a difference in someone's life
- Set an example for those around you
- Meet new people and make new friends
- Improve your social skills
- Share your skills with others
- Gain work experience
- Enhance your resume
- Build self-esteem and self-confidence

If you have questions about becoming a museum volunteer, please contact the museum office at 715-346-2858 or museum@uwsp.edu

Applications can be filled out at:

<https://forms.gle/47SSk9TnwuTE6vm79>

"Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help."

Heather French Henry



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

College of Letters & Science
Museum of Natural History

900 Reserve St., Stevens Point WI 54481-3897
www.uwsp.edu/museum/
Phone: 715-346-2858

The UW-Stevens Point Museum of Natural History is an integral educational center within the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Letters and Science, dedicated to advancing the understanding of the natural sciences.

Our mission is to:

- Ensure the professional curation of the museum's collections and foster their growth
- Facilitate access to these resources for research
- Aid in the dissemination of scientific and ethnographic information
- Encourage the integration of museum resources in UW-Stevens Point student instruction and research
- Provide for exhibition of the museum's collections
- Serve as a teaching and learning resource for schools and the regional public community

This professionally maintained academic resource provides an opportunity for greater public understanding and appreciation for the world in which we live through exhibitions, education, research, and public service. The Museum is affiliated with the UW-Stevens Point College of Letters and Science and is open to the public any time that the Albertson Center for Learning Resources building is open.

Volunteers

The Museum employs four to six work-study students each semester. In order to keep up with the growing demand for field trip tours from local schools, we must also have access to several student and community volunteers. Our volunteers do not need to have a background in science or natural history because we provide each volunteer with the information needed to lead a tour.

New volunteers will shadow a more experienced docent (tour guide) until they feel comfortable leading their own tour. Tours generally last 30 minutes each, and often there are two or more tours back to back. Volunteers are asked to lead a small group of children (usually no more than 15 kids) through the museum and highlight a few key facts about some of the larger exhibits. When a school requests a tour, the museum outreach assistant sends out an email to all staff and volunteers requesting help for that tour. If you offer to help with a tour, the outreach assistant will then contact you with any additional information that you may need.

All museum volunteers need to pass a UWSP background check as they will be working with children. Due to the expense associated with the background check and the time commitment from our staff to provide training, we ask that volunteers commit to a minimum of three tours per semester.

Potential volunteers should possess the following qualifications: good oral communication skills, the ability to work well with other volunteers and the general public, a level of comfort in dealing with children from preschool to high school, a general interest in educating the public on natural history, and a positive attitude.

Volunteers can expect to gain experience in public speaking, working with public audiences, and interacting with children. Our volunteers find that they are not only teaching children about natural history but are often learning new things themselves, about science, and the natural world. Volunteering at the Museum is a great experience! It helps develop useful communication skills that can help you become a more confident well-spoken and knowledgeable individual. Plus, it looks good on a resume!

The museum is a very relaxed environment and is flexible with volunteers' class and/or work schedules.