



Junior Docent Application for Gadsby's Tavern Museum

4th through 6th grade students are welcome to apply. Please complete the application and audition form below.

Applications are due by 4 p.m. on March 15, 2024. Auditions are Sunday, March 17.

Applicants will receive a confirmation email with audition time.

Mail to Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Email to kristy.huettner@alexandriava.gov

Questions? Call 703.746.4701

General Information

Name of Child: _____

Name of Guardian (s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Grade of Child: _____ School: _____

Please note: All applicants must be available for the audition and, if accepted, the training classes. In addition to the questions below, applicants should write a short essay (500 words or less) explaining why they want to participate in this program. Please attach to this application.

The audition is approximately 10 minutes long and will be scheduled as close to your preferred time as possible. Preferred Audition time March 17 (choose a half hour between 2:00 and 5:00).

Choice 1: _____ Choice 2: _____

Junior Docents volunteer Sunday afternoons, 1:30-5:15 p.m.. Families can submit summer availability prior to June 3 to receive preferred choices for summer dates. Will your child be available at least three Sundays between June 16 and September 1? _____ Yes _____ No

There are two mandatory training sessions.

Can your child attend one date in each of the following sessions? _____ Yes _____ No

Session A: Saturday, April 27, 9-11:30 a.m. OR Sunday, April 28, 9-11:30 a.m.

Session B: Saturday, May 18, 9-11:30 a.m. OR Sunday, May 19, 9-11:30 a.m.

This program requires time at home to study and practice the tour. Is your child willing to make this commitment? _____ Yes _____ No

Auditions Sunday, March 17, 2024, 2:00—5:00p.m.

Each applicant will have up to 2 minutes to give a small presentation about a historical topic of his or her choosing. Creativity is welcome, especially using objects to tell the story, but remember, there won't be much time to set up. (Tip: focus on a short story you could tell with an object or picture.) Museum staff will be looking for presentation skills (Did they come prepared? Could we hear them? Were they enthusiastic?) and will ask a few simple questions after the presentation. Presenting without reading notes is strongly encouraged.

To secure an audition time, applications are due March 15, 2024

Training and Study Commitment

In addition to attending one of the dates from training Session A and B, students are encouraged to attend one or both of the special trainings focused on activity stations (historic chocolate making station on **Saturday, June 1** and/or 18th-century clothing & society station on **Sunday, June 2. Both 9:30-11 a.m.**).

Participants will be required to complete readings and prep work as well as follow one museum.



What do Junior Docents do?

Junior Docents are primarily trained to give stationed tours of the museum on Sundays during the summer. Those who attend the additional activity station trainings can assist with hands-on demonstrations as well. Once accepted, Junior Docents can continue to volunteer at the museum without reapplying each year. Occasional school-year opportunities available.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1. What are the duties of Jr. Docents?** Jr. Docents learn how to share the history of the taverns with guests through “stationed tours,” practicing public speaking skills and building confidence while spread throughout different rooms of the museum.
- 2. Will museum staff always be present for events?** Yes, a staff member is always walking through the rooms to check on students and provide feedback in addition to teen peer mentors.
- 3. Is there a fee for my child to participate in the program?** No. We also provide a free shirt to wear during shifts.
- 4. Does a parent/guardian need to stay at the museum during shifts?** An adult is required to check-in with staff at drop-off and pick-up, but is not required to stay for the entire shift. Note, families can visit for free to see their student in action!

