

City Of Fairfax
Office of Historic Resources
Volunteer Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Information: Telephone (home) _____ **(work)** _____

(Email) _____ **(cell)** _____

(fax) _____

Personal Interests and Background: *Please list those things related to your interest in volunteering with the OFFICE OF HISTORIC RESOURCES.*

Professional History: *Please give a summary of your educational and professional background*

Skills and Training: *Please list special skills and training, such as computer skills, leading tours, programs, historical research, developing educational programs*

Other Volunteer Activities:

How did you learn about volunteer opportunities with the Office of Historic Resources?

Personal or Professional Reference: Please give name and contact information

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Staff Only:

Date Received _____ **By** _____

Interview _____ **Status** _____

Learn More About Us!

A Director, Curator/Visitor Services Manager, three Historic Museum Specialists and more than 40 volunteers staff the Office of Historic Resources, which manages a museum system of three historic sites in the City of Fairfax. Below is a short synopsis of each historic property and the areas where volunteer assistance is presently needed.

Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center: The City of Fairfax acquired the 12-acre Historic Blenheim Site in 1999 to serve as a Civil War Museum and Interpretive Site. The ca.1859 house is nationally significant for its preserved wall inscriptions bearing the names, drawings, and thoughts of more than 120 Union soldiers. The restored house, new Interpretive Center, outdoor pathway exhibits, programs, and living history events will explore and interpret the Civil War in the Fairfax community. The continuity of one-family ownership of the farm for 4 generations provides a backdrop to interpret the local agrarian society and the shift of the property's use to country estate and suburban home. A second family house, the c. 1840s "Grandma's Cottage," was moved to the site in 2001. Open Tues.-Sat., 12-4pm, Tours at 1pm.

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center (FMVC): Opened in 1992, the Museum and Visitor Center is housed in the former Fairfax Elementary School, which was built in 1873 as the first two-story brick schoolhouse in Fairfax County. Exhibitions interpret the history of Fairfax and the surrounding region. Programs include walking tours of the City's historic district, interpretive programming for adult and youth groups, and Second Sunday series. The Visitor Center provides travel and visitor information to tourists and local residents. The Museum and Visitor Center is open daily except for some major holidays.

Ratcliffe-Allison House and Pozer Garden: Built by Richard Ratcliffe in 1812, the house is one of the City's oldest residences. The house museum interprets the daily activities of its twelve owners and occupants and illustrates commercial and domestic changes along Main Street during the 19th and 20th centuries. The last two private owners were Dr. Kate Waller Barrett, a prominent social reformer, and her daughter, Kitty Pozer, a garden writer. Ratcliffe-Allison House is open Saturdays from 11m-2pm, April—October, by appointment throughout the year, and during special City events.

Volunteer Positions (please check your area [s] of interest)

Visitor Services/Tourism Promotion

- Visitor Center Desk, FMVC
- Visitor Center Desk, Historic Blenheim Site

Historical Research

- Historic Blenheim / Grandma's Cottage
- Museum and Visitor Center
- Ratcliffe-Allison House
- General Fairfax History

Educational Programming

- Docent for Tours/Programs
- Museum and Visitor Center
- Ratcliffe-Allison House
- Historic Blenheim

- Walking Tour / Special Interest Programs
- Adult Youth
- Living History Interpreter

Collections/Exhibitions

- All sites (Processing takes place at Fairfax Museum.)

Special Events

- Independence Day Celebration
- Chocolate Lovers Festival
- Fall Festival
- Holiday Craft Show
- Civil War Weekend
- Festival of Lights & Carols

Hospitality

- Open Houses/ Receptions/ Exhibition Openings
- Historic Blenheim Site/Grandma's Cottage

Administration/Miscellaneous

- Volunteer Activities
- Gift Shop
- Second Sunday Series (set-up)
- Fundraising Projects/Events
- Brochure Organization

Return application to: Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22030
Questions?? Please call the Curator at (703) 385-8415 or email susan.gray@fairfaxva.gov .