

National Mall and Memorial Parks Volunteer Program



Beautification Volunteer

African American Civil War Memorial and Museum

What's Involved?

Beautification volunteers at the African American Civil War Museum will be responsible for helping to keep the African American Civil War Memorial clean, as well as strategizing and implementing new ways to enhance the visibility of the memorial and better engage the surrounding community. The volunteer team will be responsible for spot cleaning and reporting maintenance concerns to museum or National Park Service staff. Volunteers will be given the opportunity to host their own group clean up events at the memorial with organizations of their choice, once approved by AACWM staff. The beautification team will also track memorial visitation numbers. Other duties of volunteers may include basic museum operations such as answering phone calls, taking messages and relaying them to appropriate personnel, monitoring and recording visitation in museums and keeping the front desk area neat and organized.

What are the benefits?

- Learn about the history of the US Colored Troops and Civil Rights
- Interact and share your knowledge with a diverse audience
- Gain insight and skills in museum operations
- Collaborate with a dynamic team of volunteers and museum staff members
- Engage with your community and practice volunteer event coordination

The role is suitable for those with:

- Desire to preserve African American history in Washington, D.C.
- Interest in enhancing the visibility of the African American Civil War Memorial
- Interest in working with the local DC community
- Great organization skills and an interest in coordinating group service events
- Great teamwork skills

Commitment:

Minimum requirement of one 2-hour shift once a month, with a suggested minimum commitment of 6 months. Preference given to a volunteer who can commit to a weekly shift. Shorter term summer involvement may also be available pending training and approval.

Site and Work Environment:

Volunteers' time will be split between the African American Civil War Museum and the African American Civil War Memorial. Each shift will begin in the museum before going across the street to the memorial. Parking at the AACWM is limited. The nearest Metro stop is U ST/African American Civil War Memorial Cardozo on the green-yellow line.

Requirements:

Age: 16 years or older (younger applicants with guardian approval may be considered). Volunteers must wear park-issued volunteer uniform and name tag. As representatives of The National Park Service and the African American Civil War

Museum, volunteers must adhere to the policies, procedures, and code of conduct as outlined in the volunteer handbook provided prior to or during training.

Physical Conditions

Volunteer work consists of standing and/or moving around while at the memorial. Volunteers can stand or sit while completing tasks within the museum. You may be exposed to inclement weather conditions, including heat/humidity, cold, rain, snow, and wind. Volunteer coordinators will notify volunteers if shifts are canceled due to inclement weather.

Hours / Days of Operation:

The African American Civil War Museum is open 7 days a week. Volunteer shifts occur from 12:30pm-2:30pm and 2pm-4pm. Volunteers should commit to at least one shift biweekly (every other week). Volunteers choose their shifts and manage their volunteer schedules using our signup software.

Training:

Volunteers will participate in three training sessions prior to the start of their shift, which will take place in-person at the Museum and virtually. Trainings will cover introductions to the National Park Service and the African American Civil War Museum, the history of the Civil War and the Civil Rights Era, and volunteer expectations and responsibilities. Volunteers may be asked to complete additional training throughout the volunteer experience to remain up to date on information and best practices.

Support:

Volunteers will be supervised by African American Civil War Museum staff during their shifts and will communicate with staff while in the community. Volunteers will also be able to rely on more seasoned, long-term volunteers for assistance with their daily tasks.

About The Trust for the National Mall:

The Trust for the National Mall is the leading nonprofit, nonpartisan philanthropic partner of the National Park Service dedicated to restoring, preserving and enriching the National Mall. We bring expertise, private funding and in-kind support to time-sensitive restoration and sustainability projects, mobilize volunteers and provide enriched educational experiences to ensure that the National Mall endures and evolves as a vibrant civic stage for all. For more information, please visit www.nationalmall.org.

About the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum

The African American Civil War Memorial and Museum are located in the historic "U" St District in Washington, DC, and together help tell the story of the United States Colored Troops' involvement in the American Civil War. The African American Civil War Memorial, which honors the 200,000 African American soldiers and sailors who fought in the Army and Navy during the Civil War, is the only memorial dedicated primarily to African American soldiers in Washington, D.C. At the core the mission is to serve the educational needs of its local, national, and international community with a high-quality and effective learning experience while interpreting the history of the USCT and the community life of African Americans before and after the American Civil War.