

# Gallery SPARK Volunteer Position



*Burke Department:* Visitor Experience  
*Supervisor:* Interpretation Programs Manager  
*Start Date:* August 2019

**The new Burke is a flagship museum of natural history and culture for Washington State opening in 2019.**

Gallery SPARKs (**S**haring **P**assion, **A**dvocacy, **R**esearch and **K**nowledge) facilitate connections between visitors and the work of the museum. Are you passionate about the natural world? Excited to facilitate learning about the intersections of science and culture? This new volunteer position will be essential to providing a consistently engaging and welcoming visitor experience across every area of the museum when we open the new Burke in fall 2019. Gallery SPARKs will facilitate learning experiences across the museum, including areas such as:

- museum reception,
- education "alcoves",
- floor 1: Northwest Native Art Gallery, Artist Workshop, Ethnology Gallery, storage and collections spaces,
- floor 2: Biology gallery, preparation lab, storage and collections spaces,
- floor 3: Archaeology Gallery, storage and collections spaces and Paleontology Gallery, storage and collections preparation spaces.

## **Key Responsibilities:**

- Engage visitors in conversations about the work of the Burke and Burke exhibits
- Implement a range of inclusive and accessible interactive experiences for intergenerational audiences
- Offer visitors wayfinding support as they navigate the building and galleries
- Proactively welcome and orient visitors to the museum experience

## **Training and Support:**

This volunteer position is supported by and reports to the Burke's Interpretation Programs Manager. In addition to a volunteer orientation, Gallery SPARK training will offer:

- practice developing icebreaker conversations into deeper dialogue with visitors,
- practice facilitating hands-on learning experiences,
- practice modeling the Burke's commitment to sharing authority with communities whose cultural heritage is cared for at the Burke,
- tools for navigating conversations with visitors who have viewpoints that conflict with yours or the Burke's,
- tools for creating an equitable and inclusive visitor experience.

## **Commitment:**

- A one year commitment to the position is preferred.
- Unless you are a current collections volunteer, we ask that you commit to 6 months of SPARK-ing before you apply for another position. You are welcome to do more than one role as long as you can fulfill the requirements of each.
- This volunteer position has a high training investment. Plan to attend 1 volunteer orientation, approximately 5 hours of SPARK-specific trainings prior to your first shift, and attend a SPARK booster training every 6 months.
- Each SPARK-specific training will be scheduled several times (including nights and weekends) over the months of August and September. Enrollment for these trainings will open in early Summer 2019.
- After training is completed we ask for a commitment of 2 shifts per month. Each shift is approximately 2.5 hours.
- Standard shifts are from 10am – 12:30pm and 1-3:30pm on weekdays and weekends. Additional afternoon and evening shifts are available during Free First Thursdays and special events.

### **Essential Skills and Qualifications:**

To be successful in this role a volunteer must:

- be passionate about engaging with the broadest possible public audiences
- be comfortable working independently and in a group-setting,
- be reliable and responsible with their schedule,
- demonstrate strong communication and listening skills,
- be open and flexible to SPARK shifts throughout all areas of the museum.

### **Desired Skills and Qualifications:**

We value the different backgrounds and cultural experiences volunteers may bring to this role:

- Proficiency in additional languages
- Experience working with intergenerational groups
- A commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility
- Prior experience in classroom teaching, informal education, working with Native American communities and organizations, public speaking, storytelling, small group facilitation and/or customer service,
- Prior experience, study or demonstrated interest in areas of research and collecting represented at the Burke (Biology, Paleontology, Ethnology, Archaeology)

***Have questions about this role? Contact [burkevol@uw.edu](mailto:burkevol@uw.edu).***