



Smithsonian Libraries



TEEN DOCENT PROGRAM

SUMMER 2017

The Smithsonian Libraries Teen Docents will lead gallery tours and educational experiences for the public in the Smithsonian Libraries exhibits. Summer 2017 will focus on our upcoming show, *American Gardens*, located at the Nation Museum of American History. This free program gives students the opportunity to learn about library and museum careers and get a behind-the-scenes view of the Smithsonian.

Should I Apply?

The Smithsonian Libraries Teen Docent Program is open to local students 15-18 years old, attending or recently graduated from high school. Students should have an interest in libraries, museums, art, public speaking, and engaging with audiences of all ages. The program is competitive and limited applicants will be selected. **Applications are Due March 1st, 2017.**

When is it?

All docents are required to complete a week of training prior to being on the gallery floor. The mandatory training week will take place **Monday June 26 – Friday June 30, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.** There are no alternative training dates. Once training is completed students will sign up for 2-hour shifts over July and August. Two shifts per week is the recommended minimum, serving at least 20 hours overall.

What Should I Expect?

During the training week students will learn and practice strategies for guiding visitors through the exhibit. Training will focus on public speaking, learning through objects, guided looking, engaging with visitors of all ages, and exhibit content. The Smithsonian Libraries Teen Docents will meet and work with the established docent force from Smithsonian Gardens.

How Do I Apply?

Interested students should fill out the Teen Docent Application, and submit it along with all three supplemental materials by the March 1st deadline. Applicants may be asked to attend an interview with Smithsonian Libraries staff.

What if I Have Questions?

Contact Sara Cardello, Education Specialist
at cardellos@si.edu, or 202.633.0857

Email applications to Sara Cardello cardellos@si.edu / 202.633.0857 / Due March 1st, 2017



TEEN DOCENT APPLICATION

| | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|------------|
| Name: | | Age: | Birthdate: |
| Street Address: | | | |
| City: | | Zip: | Cell: |
| Email Address: | | | |
| High School: | | | |
| School Address: | | | |
| Parent(s) or Guardian(s): | | | |
| Emergency Contact: | | Relationship: | |
| Daytime Phone Number: | | Email: | |
| Personal Reference: | | Relationship: | |
| Phone and/or email: | | Your Year in School: | |
| Any weeks that you are unavailable over the summer? | | | |
| How did you hear about the Smithsonian Libraries Teen Docent Program? | | | |

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Please include with this application these **three** items: (separate documents as needed)

- ◆ In one paragraph, answer one of the following questions:
 - ◇ What do you do in your spare time?
 - ◇ Describe the most important thing that ever happened to you.
 - ◇ Describe a favorite museum or library memory.
- ◆ In one paragraph, answer why are you interested in the Smithsonian Libraries Teen Docent Program?
- ◆ Share your creative side by including a sketch, painting, collage, photograph, sculpture, song, video, poem, short story, or other form of creativity! (*You do not need to include original artwork; a photograph will do*)