

In-person Volunteering Opportunity

Kirkstall Abbey Volunteer Guides

What is the project?

If only these walls could talk! If you're passionate about bringing history to life, then joining our team of volunteer guides could be the ideal role for you. You'll lead visitors through the ruins and engage them with aspects of life in the abbey. You'll help people imagine what it was like to be a lay brother or prayer monk, explore a medieval diet, how many times a day prayers were said, or what could land you in the abbey prison cell!

What's in it for you?

Develop your knowledge of Kirkstall Abbey, one of the most complete examples of a medieval Cistercian abbey in Britain.

Sharing your passion for history.

Build on or discover new research skills.

Be part of a friendly and dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

Meet people from all walks of life and make new friends.

Improve your communication skills.

Enjoy new experiences and learn something new every day.

Enjoy the great outdoors.

What's involved?

Attending relevant training and inductions.

Researching and creating engaging tours about the abbey and its history.

Meeting and greeting visitors to Kirkstall Abbey who are participating in the guided tours.

Leading groups of all ages and backgrounds around the abbey, adapting tours as necessary to meet the needs of various audiences (this includes any access and inclusion requirements).

Answering questions at the end of the tour.

Ensuring the safety of your groups whilst on the tour.

The role will suit people who are enthusiastic and keen to share their knowledge of the abbey with others. You will be reliable, keen to learn, have good oral communication skills and enjoy meeting people. Last but not least, you will be passionate about giving our visitors the best possible experience of the abbey.

The role will involve working outside and you should be able to work without supervision when required. Ideally you will be able to commit to giving tours at least one morning, afternoon or day

per fortnight. All volunteers should be willing to abide by the Council's code of conduct. No qualifications or experience is required as full training will be given.

We welcome applications from a range of backgrounds. If you are shortlisted, please tell us if you require any adjustments to be made to enable you to attend.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Please note that Kirkstall Abbey is a heritage site and some areas of the grounds are cobbled and/or uneven

Location: Kirkstall Abbey, Kirkstall, Leeds, LS5 3EH

Time commitment: Optional slots weekdays and weekends April to September

Day: Tuesday to Sunday

Duration: April, May, June, July, August & September 2022

Expenses: Out of pocket travel costs between home and your volunteering place will be reimbursed up to the value of £6.00 per day.

Further info: For further information contact Elaine Francis-Truett, Keeper Abbey House Museum & Kirkstall Abbey Elaine.FrancisTruett@leeds.gov.uk

Closing date: Applications must be received by 13th February 2022

Induction Date: Applicants will be required to attend an induction session at 1pm on 2nd March 2020.

If you are interested, please click on the "Fill in an application" button

<https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/volunteer/>

If you need any help filling in this form, please call 0113 3367840 and ask for the Volunteer and Skills Development Coordinator.

If you already volunteer for us please send an email to: volunteer@leeds.gov.uk stating what you hope to gain from the opportunity and tell us about any experience you have.

This link takes you to information on [How volunteering affects your benefits - overview - Citizens Advice](#)

Or type this address into your browser <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/benefits-introduction/how-volunteering-affects-your-benefits/>



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