

Looking for PARA Members for the 9/11 Memorial VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The PARA Board has been in contact with staff of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum periodically since 2011. The 9/11 Memorial Museum asked us recently if we would help it get the word out to PARA members about participating in its volunteer programs, particularly because of our members' singular relationship and history with the World Trade Center and September 11.

The following description of the two particular volunteer programs – Visitor Services Volunteers and Museum Docents – was provided by the 9/11 Memorial Museum staff.

Since opening in September 2011, the National September 11 Memorial has been visited by nearly 12 million guests from over 80 countries. Occupying half of the 16-acre World Trade Center site, the Memorial features two reflecting pools, each nearly an acre in size, set in the footprints of the Twin Towers. Around the pools, the names of the victims are inscribed in bronze. A surrounding plaza of trees creates a contemplative space separate from the usual sights and sounds of a bustling metropolis. It is truly a special place for everyone who visits but particularly for anyone who has a connection to the events of September 11, 2001. The 9/11 Memorial Museum, located in the seven stories between the plaza and bedrock of the site and will open this spring 2014. The Memorial Museum will include a memorial exhibition commemorating the unique life of each of the victims. It will also recognize the thousands who survived and those who demonstrated extraordinary compassion in the aftermath.

You can discover interesting details about the 9/11 Memorial Museum at:

<http://www.911memorial.org/museum>

The Museum expects 2.5 million visitors each year. The daily activities supporting the Museum could not be performed without the help of volunteers. The 9/11 Memorial values their compassion and contribution to this national tribute. Volunteers for the National September 11 Memorial and Museum play a critical role in providing a meaningful experience for millions of visitors from around the world, and PARA members can participate in the following programs:

Visitor Services Volunteers are an integral part of visitor services at the 9/11 Memorial. They support Visitor Services in the guidance of visitors through the Museum, assist with public programming, provide information about 9/11 victims and orient visitors outside on the Memorial Plaza. Volunteers also support special ceremonies and commemorative events.

Museum Docents help support the Museum's educational mission. Docents provide interpretive services to visitors through thematic talks that include detailed information about artifacts, the World Trade Center site and the history of 9/11.

As a volunteer you will need to show compassion and be able to cope with difficult subject matter and those affected by it. You must show open-mindedness and patience to work with a diverse public and staff. Importantly you must exhibit the necessary integrity to represent the institution and oneself with the highest standards. You must possess excellent oral and interpersonal skills and a dedication to the

Museum Mission and to the values of the Volunteer Program. Lastly you must demonstrate the ability and reliability to consistently keep one's volunteer commitment.

To learn more and to apply online, go to: <http://www.911memorial.org/volunteer>

Those who work or have worked in the WTC area, or who work for the Port Authority, have a unique and valuable perspective as potential volunteers. Many former Port Authority retirees, and still active employees, hold memories that are still very much alive, and the 9/11 Memorial Museum invites you to apply to become part of its volunteer base. We are eager to identify volunteers who can commit their time in supporting our mission to assist visitors from all over the world but for whom this organization holds a memorable and meaningful connection.

We accept applications on a rolling basis, however, if you sign up NOW you will join a team that will be part of history by helping open the Museum this May! By applying now, you will be able to receive an invitation to one of our future trainings. The timeline for the two volunteer programs are:

Visitor Services Volunteers

The next session will be in April and beginning of May

- Training is up to 10 hours
- Subsequent trainings will be held as needed, but we encourage all to apply ASAP

Museum Docents

The next acceptance and training will be late spring or early summer.

- A comprehensive training of 60 to 70 hours over a period of four months is required

We hope that this will be the beginning of a long and established relationship between the National September 11 Memorial & Museum and the Port Authority Retirees Association, and we look forward to seeing your application very soon!

Should you have any other questions, feel free to contact: volunteer@911memorial.org