



**PORTSMOUTH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
10 MIDDLE STREET, PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801
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Walking Tour Guide Volunteer

Portsmouth Historical Society | Portsmouth, NH

Portsmouth Historical Society connects our community to Portsmouth's past, present, and future through collections, interpretation, education, and preservation. Central to that mission are our walking tours, which bring Portsmouth's rich and layered history to life for locals and visitors alike. We depend on the enthusiasm and talents of our volunteer tour guides to make that happen.

Walking Tour Guide Volunteers lead public tours of Portsmouth's historic downtown after completing our Walking Tour Guide Training Program. No background in history or tour guiding is required, just a love of Portsmouth and a desire to share its stories. **This is an in-person, seasonal volunteer position, primarily from May through October.** Walking Tour Guide Volunteers commit to leading a recommended minimum of 4 tours per month. New volunteers complete Tour Guide Training before leading their first tour.

Fill out our online interest form to get started:

<https://portsmouthhistory.org/volunteer/#volunteer-form>

Walking Tour Guide Training

Our Walking Tour Guide Training prepares you with everything you need to lead a Portsmouth Historical Society walking tour:

- In-person practice sessions led by experienced guides
 - Learning sessions covering Portsmouth history, architecture, storytelling, and tour group management
 - At-home study using PHS training materials
 - Community, camaraderie, and support every step of the way
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Walking Tour Guide Duties

- Lead walking tours of Portsmouth's historic downtown and surrounding neighborhoods
 - Interpret Portsmouth's multi-layered history for diverse visitor groups
 - Provide excellent customer service and manage tour groups on busy city streets
 - Arrive reliably and punctually for all scheduled tours
 - Use PHS tour materials and conduct tours only as authorized by Portsmouth Historical Society
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Qualifications and Skills

- Ability to complete the PHS Walking Tour Guide Training Program which includes four hours of training, a minimum of two Shadow Tours, a minimum of two co-presenting tours, and a minimum of two solo tours with support.
- Genuine interest in Portsmouth history and the Society's mission
- Strong communication, storytelling, and public speaking skills (or a desire to develop them)
- Patience and comfort working with a wide range of visitors and personalities
- Reliable time management and flexibility
- Ability to walk approximately one mile outdoors on urban terrain at a moderate pace for 90 minutes
- Ability to work outdoors in variable New England weather conditions
- Access to the internet and a mobile device or computer

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to be a historian or an expert in Portsmouth history? Not at all! Our volunteers come from all walks of life: educators, doctors, engineers, artists, retirees, and more. Our training program provides everything you need. All you need is curiosity, enthusiasm, and a connection to Portsmouth.

What tours can volunteers lead? New volunteers learn from our [current tour offerings](#), which explore Portsmouth's colonial history, architecture, diverse communities, and more. As you gain experience, you may have the opportunity to develop expertise across additional tours in our program.

Do I have to attend all the training sessions? Full participation in training is important to your success as a guide. We understand that life happens, and accommodations for a single missed session can typically be arranged.

Is there a minimum age to volunteer? Volunteers must be at least 18 years old.

What are the benefits of becoming a walking tour guide? Guides receive a complimentary Portsmouth Historical Society membership, which includes free admission to our galleries and the John Paul Jones House all season long. You'll also enjoy professional development opportunities, off-site field trips, and appreciation events.

Get in touch and start the process of becoming a volunteer tour guide today:

<https://portsmouthhistory.org/volunteer/#volunteer-form>