

## Join us as a Volunteer Docent!

### *What do docents do?*

Docents play a vital role at the Weatherspoon, helping our visitors feel welcome, become curious about our exhibitions, and look closely at works of art. The primary role of a docent is to facilitate gallery experiences centered on observation and conversation.

### *How do they do this?*

Docents use object-based teaching strategies to encourage visitors to explore artworks. While primarily conversation-based, these interactions might also include writing, sketching, or other activities. The goal is to spark discussion, help people connect artworks with their own personal experiences and interests, and facilitate learning about the world through art.



### *Who do docents work with?*

Docents primarily work with community members who may visit the museum as part of a K-12 school class, homeschool cooperative, Scout troop, art club, afterschool program, retirement community, book club, service organization, day program for adults with disabilities, or other groups. From time to time, docents may also work with Weatherspoon staff to help facilitate university class visits.

### *How are docents trained?*

Weatherspoon staff work closely with new docents to teach skills and strategies for greeting and managing visit groups, guiding close looking at artworks, and facilitating conversations. After their initial training, new docents will spend 2-4 months observing and assisting with tours before being asked to lead a visit independently.

### *What are the benefits of being a docent?*

- Personal and intellectual growth. Docents have continuing opportunities to learn about art, the collection, teaching, and learning.
- The joy of working with and learning from museum visitors.
- Being part of a team of other educators who love to connect people with artworks.

### *What are the nuts and bolts—the required commitments?*

#### 1. Offer a Warm Welcome

We expect docents to create an environment that is inviting and friendly.

## 2. Model Curiosity

We don't expect docents to be art historians, but we do expect docents to be excited about modern and contemporary art and to become comfortable discussing it with visitors of all ages.

## 3. Be Present

- **Attend 16 hours of initial training. These hours are broken into 4 sessions:**
  - Friday, September 26: 1 – 5pm
  - Saturday, September 27: 11am – 3pm, lunch provided
  - Friday, October 24: 1 – 5pm
  - Saturday, October 25: 11am – 3pm, lunch provided
- Attend **monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month from 10 – 11:30am.** Occasionally, a meeting or a workshop may be scheduled on a different day due to holidays, the exhibition calendar, or other events.
- **Lead or assist with a combination of 4-6 visits and/or events per calendar year.**
  - Visits are generally scheduled for 1 hour and are most frequently requested on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
  - Depending on the visit, docents may spend an hour or two in preparation, including reviewing materials at home, spending time in the galleries, and/or meeting independently with fellow docents.
  - Special events are typically held on Thursday evenings, when the museum is open until 8 PM, and occasionally on Fridays or Saturdays.
- Stick with us.
  - **We request a two-year commitment following the initial training** and onboarding process, although we realize circumstances may change unexpectedly.

## 4. Be Safe.

- Docents must comply with the [University of North Carolina, Greensboro Volunteer Policies](#), including completion of a criminal background check prior to service.

# I am ready to apply!

Great! Please fill out this form online: <https://forms.office.com/r/qRZkmhVjrO>. Applications will close July 18, 2025. Please allow up to 5 business days for a response from Raechel Cook, Associate Curator of Academic Programming, who will schedule interviews on a rolling basis. We will be accepting up to 8 new docents into the program.