

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Museum volunteers are key to making the USS Midway one of the top museums in the nation. Welcoming more than a million visitors a year, volunteers have opportunities for involvement in almost every area of operations, behind the scenes, or out front with guests. Midway volunteers are essential. They are part of a dynamic “crew” that shares in the passion of having fun while building a greater sense of community. Prospective volunteers must be 18 years of age and make a weekly or monthly commitment for a period of at least 6 months. The following list is subject to change.

- 1.Safety..... All days, especially afternoons/weekends
- 2.Airwing (aircraft maintenance and restoration) Fri, Saturday mornings only
- 3.Knot Team Weekends and holidays
- 4.WWII Veterans as Storytellers (Speakers Forum)..... any day
- 5.EDUCATION: Overnight Program Weekend evenings and mornings
- 6.Docent (Tour Guide)..... All days, especially afternoons
- 7.GROUP PROJECTS Groups of 10 or more for 1-day projects
- 8.Guest Services All days, same day commitment each week
- 9.Ship Restoration..... Tues., Thurs., Sat. Mornings only
- 10.Exhibits Department Weekday mornings
- 11. AdministrationVaries
- 12. Radio Team.....Weekends
- 13. Historical Research.....Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday

Detailed descriptions are listed in this document



Join us in our effort to **entertain, educate and facilitate** the needs of our museum guests.

*(Updated as of **JUNE 2022** – this list is subject to change)*

**For more information about volunteering at the Midway, please contact the Volunteer Office
(619) 398-8289 volunteering@midway.org**

1. Safety Department

Job Description:

- Help ensure the safety and enjoyment of over a million guests annually exploring Midway from around the world
- Patrol all areas of the ship during daytime museum hours as well as at special events and military ceremonies
- Provide basic first aid for guests and Midway team members (training provided)
- Respond to all emergency situations, medical or other
- Monitor entrances/exits and help guests (from toddlers to veterans) enter and leave Midway safely
- Monitor the loading zone and parking areas to ensure the safety of our employees, volunteers and guests on and around Navy Pier
- All safety volunteers are required to be familiar with the **Safety Team Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Emergency Action Plan**, including the locations of the First Aid Kits and AEDs

Minimum Requirements:

- 18 years of age or older
- Physically fit; able to climb up and down the ship's ladders
- Computer literate
- Able to commit to 20 hours a month (flexible schedule)
- Personal traits of timeliness, reliability, customer service and diplomacy
- Ability to remain calm in the face of any emergency
- Able to walk and stand for extended periods of time
- Prior experience in customer service, military, nursing, Fire Fighting, EMT, paramedic, or law enforcement is helpful but not required

Work Hours (20 or more hours per month):

- Any day of the week
- Five-hour shifts (8:30-1:30 or 1:00-6:00)

Safety team members are assigned posts at the start of each shift and are expected to assist guests and patrol for potential hazards, responding as trained to emergency situations.

2. Airwing/ Aircraft Restoration

Job Description: Assist in maintaining and potentially restoring historic aircraft. Corrosion control (cleaning) is the task at hand for newbies or those without prior experience in restoration or metal work. A rewarding experience! Training in maintenance is provided. Experienced aircraft metal workers, painters, bodyworkers and novices with mechanical aptitude are ideal participants, where additional duties may include: fabrication, installation and repair of aircraft components. All volunteers must complete an initial orientation with the Airwing department. For more info see <https://airwing.midway.org/>

Minimum Requirements: Moderate physical demands. Requires the ability to climb on stands, ladders and aircraft as well as lifting up to 20 pounds.

Training Provided: All volunteers must complete an initial orientation with the Airwing department.

Duties: Washing aircraft. May evolve to include fabrication, installation and repair of aircraft components, depending on skill and aptitude.

Commitment: A commitment of at least 10 hours per month is necessary to start and stay current; Work hours are: 7:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. on **Fridays and/or Saturdays**.

3. Knot Team/Customer Service

Job Description: We are looking for volunteers to accept museum donations in exchange for hand-crafted, nautical items. Must be capable of basic math in order to make change for cash payments at our 'Knot table'. This very popular 'exhibit' allows guests to acquire a memento of their visit in exchange for a suggested donation; these donations provide scholarships for local kids pursuing higher education. In 2022, the team is expected to exceed 1 million dollars in donations. Volunteers may also conduct knot demos or produce knotted items (training provided).

Minimum Requirements:

- Strong interpersonal skills
- ability to make change when handling money
- Willingness to learn basic understanding of the museum's layout and history.

Commitment: 10 hours per month. Morning shifts are 8:30am – 1pm and afternoon shifts are 12:30 pm – 5:00 pm on weekends and holidays.

4. WWII Veterans as Storytellers (Speakers Forum)

Job Description: World War II veterans share their personal stories with Midway guests, who are eager to meet veterans with first-hand experience.

Duties: Engage guests in conversational/freestyle discussions; additional visual aids may be used by the guest speakers to enhance their stories.

5. EDUCATION: Youth Overnight Program Support

Job Description: Volunteers engage with guests of all ages, especially youth, through 'chat stations' and personal interaction during Overnight Programs. Volunteers will be stationed at specific points in the ship and will talk to groups about the functions, history and share the story of that location on the ship. They will also conduct Question and Answer sessions and assist staff with behind-the-scenes tours. Minimum Requirements: Prior experience as teacher, working with youth, Midway docent training and/or relevant shipboard background preferred. Prospective volunteers must be friendly, outgoing, accommodating, articulate, and passionate. They must be able to stand/walk for several hours at a time, have the ability to navigate ships ladders, and be a minimum of 18 years of age. A criminal history and security check is required. There are 40 programs/events a year. Training Provided: Volunteers will be initially trained on the basics of the ship, its components, and Overnight program/operations. Follow up training will be held 2-3 times per year. Commitment: At least one Overnight event per month. This includes one afternoon, on either a Friday or Saturday, plus the following morning, for a total of about 11 hours of volunteer service. Volunteers have an option to spend the night in Junior Officer quarters or commute for the 2nd shift.

6. Docent (Tour Guide)

Job Description: This position interfaces with the public and provides a personal touch to Midway's self-guided audio tour of the museum. Being a docent is probably one of the most rewarding experiences a volunteer can encounter as they witness positive reactions from visitors to informative, yet individually embellished (as appropriate) presentations.

Minimum Requirements: Strong interpersonal skills with a background in public speaking and/or

education and the ability to communicate information clearly and concisely. Personal traits of timeliness, reliability and diplomacy are expected. Prior military service is a plus, but not essential. Prospective volunteers must be at least 18 years of age, able to climb ship's ladders and stand/walk for periods of up to 4 hours.

Training Provided: The docent training course is 8 consecutive Mondays (6 hours each session), plus an additional morning each week on either a Tuesday or Thursday 8:00-12:00 (trainees choice) using a standardized outline covering all aspects of ship familiarization, exhibits, history and interpersonal skills. After completing classroom study, 20-hours of "on the job" training with a seasoned docent is required before successfully completing a walk-thru with a docent leader.

Duties: As a docent graduate, you will give brief talks to groups at various venues throughout the ship. All activities are under the direction of the Docent Director, and daily operations are delegated to a Docent of the Watch (DOW), who makes daily watch assignments.

Commitment: After completion of the above requirements and receiving a "yellow hat," a minimum of 20 hours per month is required. Scheduling is flexible with shifts available 7 days a week; watches (shifts) are 4 hours each in the AM or PM with occasional frequent opportunities to assist at special evening events.

7. GROUP PROJECTS

Groups of approx. 10-20 people from military, corporate, social, educational and other organizations are invited to participate for one-day projects. These projects give your team the opportunity to spend time aboard and learn about the USS Midway Museum while helping us keep our ship clean for museum guests who come from all over the world. Join in the spirit of service to inspire future generations! Time

Commitment: 3-4 hours, typically mornings, advanced arrangements required. Option to tour museum at your own pace following the project. Call Steve Suslik for more info (619) 398-8289 or email at ssuslik@midway.org.

8. GUEST SERVICES AMBASSADOR

Position involves audio tour distribution and collection, assisting guests with basic wayfinding, and hospitality. Our audio tour is an impactful element to our guest experience, and statistical data collected from it is used to inform the museum's operational decisions. Consider joining us! The position requires 4 hours weekly. The same shift weekly is required as we are open 7 days per week and teamwork is emphasized. Ability to stand for several hours is necessary, with intermittent breaks. Minimum age 18. Friendly and outgoing applicants are encouraged to apply!

9. SHIP RESTORATION

Volunteers are critical members of the Engineering Dept. who contribute valuable skills and dedication to revitalize, restore, and repair all physical areas of USS Midway. Projects focus on transforming ship spaces/compartments from a decommissioned status to either fully restored or transformed to serve the museum's new operational needs.

Duties May Include

- Removing old hardware, wiring or furniture prior to renovation
- Replacing and repairing walls, floors, partitions
- Polishing brass, replicating missing handles, specialty painting, and surface restoration
- Maintaining original equipment such as ship's fans, and lighting

Minimum Requirements

- 18 years of age or older

- Physically fit: able to climb up and down ship's ladders
- Able to commit to 20 hrs. per month on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday mornings only.
- Prior experience with a variety of tools required.
- Must be safety conscious, able to work independently and also able to follow directions working as a member of a team.
- Experience in the building trades or in navy engineering is very helpful but not essential

10. EXHIBITS TEAM

Help create new and restore older exhibits throughout the museum tour route, which may include behind the scenes tour route areas. Candidates must have some prior experience with painting, and preferably some familiarity with oil-based vs water-based paint. Duties include: surface prep (masking, priming, sanding and or fillers), painting and clean up. Projects will be using almost exclusively water-based paints but may be asked to use epoxy or other oil-based paints. PPP will be provided where necessary. Projects may include collaboration with engineering and ships restoration team members. Some training will be provided, but prior experience preferred.

Requirement: Minimum age is 18. Ability to climb ships ladders and lift 20 pounds. 10 hours per month minimum, weekday mornings. flexible schedule.

11. Administrative Positions

Must be fluent in English. Various positions, openings are subject to change. For example... Telephone receptionists: answer incoming calls to the USS Midway Museum on weekdays - involves transferring calls, and providing basic museum information. Must be a clear communicator with a positive and friendly attitude. Must have the ability to climb stairs to access work-station on the USS Midway Museum. Data Entry: positions within the curatorial department transcribing historical data into spread sheets in Excell. Option to work from home if volunteer has computer access. For more info, contact the volunteer office.

12. Radio Team

Licensed HAM operators needed for monthly events communicating between the ship (call sign NI6IW) and operators internationally. Also looking for operators who may also be capable of providing instruction to youth for merit badge program. For details, please contact the volunteer office.

13. Historical Research for Museum's Naval Aviation Library

- Fridays, Saturdays and/or Sundays
- Monthly commitment of 16 Hours
- Weekly commitment preferred
- on site with possible options to work remotely for additional hours.
- Experience with Past Perfect software preferred
- Advanced level skills with research, archiving, library science and/or database management/entry
- Ability to climb ship's ladders required
- Willingness and ability to supervise/train additional volunteers is ideal.