



Weisman Art Museum
333 East River Road, Minneapolis, MN 55455
612-625-9494
weisman.umn.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Weisman Art Museum Tour Guide Program Fall 2009 Application

To Submit:

ACROBAT PROFESSIONAL USERS: Complete the application and save the document to your computer. Email the application as an attachment to Judi Petkau at petka001@umn.edu.

ACROBAT READER USERS: Complete the application and print. Fax to Judi Petkau at 612.625.9630.

Contact Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Evening Phone:** _____

Educational Background: What have you studied? (200 words or less)

Place of employment or school

What times/days might you be available to lead tours? (Indicate all possibilities)

Weekday mornings

Weekday afternoons

Thursday evenings

Saturday/Sunday afternoons

What languages do you speak?

The tour guide program will require you to commit about three hours of time every week during the 6-month basic training, September through February. Training times are Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 8:00, with breaks that coincide with the U calendar. Guides in training are asked to complete short written assignments and practice presentations. We ask that guides continue volunteering at least one year beyond the basic training.

Please check this box if this is a commitment you can make.

Do you have any related volunteer, tutoring, or teaching experiences? Please describe.
(200 words or less)

Briefly describe any training you have in art or museum work (art history courses, art making or performance, museum education, or personal study). (200 words or less)

Please write a paragraph or so stating why you would like to be a Weisman tour guide and what you hope to gain from the experience. Include the strengths and abilities you bring to the position. (300 word or less)

Thank you for your interest in the volunteer tour guide program at the Weisman Art Museum.

Upon receiving your application, we will review your statements of commitment and availability before inviting you to join the training class. We train a group of new guides every other year and our next training class will begin in the fall of 2009.

The “Weisguides” are an essential and valued link to our diverse audiences, serving to educate museum visitors about the Weisman Art Museum building and the artwork inside. In appreciation of their hard work, active guides receive free individual museum membership, free parking for all training, study and tours, and a 15% discount in the museum store.

Training sessions run each Tuesday evening, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., from September 2009 through March 2010. The training will focus on 20th century American art history, the architecture of Frank Gehry, and other aspects of Weisman’s collection and mission, as well as speaking and gallery teaching skills. Training includes reading, research, discussion, written assignments, and active practice in object-centered teaching.

Once the basic training is completed, tour guides begin providing museum tours and continue meeting about once per month to study ongoing topics and new exhibitions. These ongoing training sessions are always held on Tuesday evenings. We require that tour guides attend all training sessions and actively provide tours for at least one year after completing the beginning class. Guides give an average of one or two tours each week. Weekend public guides work an average of two shifts a month. We offer a flexible scheduling process that can change each semester or as your availability changes. You could choose to volunteer for a time slot Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday evenings until 9 p.m. or Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays.

Becoming a Weisman Tour Guide is making a serious commitment of time while providing a valuable service to the museum and community. It also is an exciting and rewarding opportunity for personal and creative growth. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Judi Petkau, Coordinator of Youth and Tour Programs at petka001@umn.edu.