



2022/2023 Youth Volunteer Application

Youth Volunteer Overview

Thank you for your interest in the GMA's Youth Volunteer Program! This volunteer program is open to young adults between the ages of 13 and 17. The program benefits both the participants and ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture. The program is designed to offer youth an opportunity to learn about the past, gain hands-on experience for the professional work environment, and prepare them to take an active role in volunteering. Along the way, youth make new friends, discover new skills, and have countless fun memories. We do require hard work and excellent behavior from our youth. In return, we aim to make great young people even better through the GMA's unique and enriching cultural environment.

To be selected as a youth volunteer, applicants must submit a brief application. Youth volunteers may work in all areas of the Museum grounds. Examples include:

- **Historic Village:** Youth in historic costume demonstrate life of the time period. Youth may care for livestock at the farm, assist with interpreting historic sites for guests, learn crafts and/or trades, or help maintain gardens.
- **Vulcan Steam Train** and related areas: Youth help load and unload guests from the train. They will ensure safety precautions are taken by all guests and staff during the train ride. There will be opportunities to serve as a conductor on the train.
- **Children's Activities:** Youth assist with sessions of Camp Wiregrass during the summer, or demonstrate crafts and games of the 19th century.

Each youth volunteer typically works in several, though not all, of the above areas. Costumes will be required for various activities throughout the program. The GMA does have historic clothing that can be borrowed; however, we do recommend youth purchase or make their own as well. We have patterns available for those that wish to make their own costume.

Throughout the year, youth assist with special events such as the Folklife Festival, Trick or Treat in the Village, Freedom Festival, and North Pole Express. They might also work behind the scenes helping with tasks such as preparing crafts for future exhibits and cleaning artifacts. Youth volunteers may also participate in media initiatives such as commercial shoots and outreach programs.

GMA will offer a series of both mandatory and voluntary training sessions for the youth interpreters covering a range of topics including crafting, gardening, 19th-century life, guest service, professionalism and more. We will also take at least one field trip to another museum or historic site.

Participants must work a minimum of 60 hours per year. Most students achieve this by volunteering in June and July and then volunteering for at least four of our special events that are planned for the year. During the summer, youth interpreters typically volunteer from **9:00 am – 2:00 pm on Wednesdays or Thursdays**. Our schedule varies slightly in the spring and fall, and some special programs do occur in the evenings. Youth volunteers are also encouraged to volunteer on Saturday's throughout the year, but not required.



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The primary focuses of the program are learning about the museum, along with developing a spirit of volunteerism. By the end of the year, youth should gain a basic knowledge of these areas and hone skills such as **communication, teamwork, responsibility, and leadership.**

If you are interested in applying for the 2022-2023 program, you will need to complete an application with all necessary paperwork. **The deadline for applications to the youth volunteer program for the 2022/2023 calendar year is May 6, 2022.**

Looking forward to a great summer!

Sara Hand
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Georgia Museum of Agriculture
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Please return this form by **Friday, May 6, 2022**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicant Information

Name: _____
 First Middle Initial Last Preferred Name

Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: (home) _____ (cell) _____

E-mail Address: _____

School Name: _____

Grade in School: _____ Gender: Male ___ Female ___

Will you be at least 13 years old by May 31, 2022? Yes ___ No ___ Date of Birth ___/___/___

Parent/ Guardian Information

First Contact Name: _____ Employer: _____

Address (if different): _____ Day Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Relationship: _____

Second Contact Name: _____ Employer: _____

Address (if different): _____ Day Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Relationship: _____



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Availability

With the exception of very rare, required days, we have flexible scheduling: however, we do have a special need for youth who can work during the summer and Special Events throughout the year.

1. In general, are you available to volunteer at least one day from 9 am-2 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday in the summer? Please circle one.
YES NO (You may still apply for the program even if you answer “no.”)

A summer volunteer’s typical schedule is: volunteer for 4.5 hours a day (9am – 2pm with a 30-minute lunch break), working two days out of Tuesday-Saturday; the weekly total would therefore be 9 hours. Youth volunteers are required to work four weeks in the summer.

2. In general, are you available to volunteer for Special Events on Saturdays and some weeknights (for North Pole Express) June 2022 – May 2023? The Museum will host the following Special Events within the coming year.

October 29, 2022: Trick-or-Treat in the Village

November 19, 2022: Cane Grinding/Syrup Cooking

December 1-3 and 8-10, 2022 (multiple nights): North Pole Express

April 1, 2023: Folklife Festival

3. Are you available for Youth Volunteer Training on **Wednesday, May 25, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm?** (Please circle one.)
YES NO (If **NO**, please discuss via phone with Sara Hand prior to submitting your application.)

There will be a mandatory parent’s meeting on Wednesday, May 25 at 5:30 pm in the Peanut Museum (located behind the Country Store).

4. Please list below any dates that you are not available to volunteer such as scheduled family vacations, summer camps, etc.



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Experience

1. Please list your experiences working with the public or as a volunteer. Continue on a separate piece of paper if necessary.

Activity Description	Duration (2 hours a week for 2 years, 7-day mission trip, etc.)

2. Give an example of a time you worked as part of a team. Tell us what your goal was, how you overcame any difficulties, and what specific role you had within the team.
3. Do you have responsibilities/chores at home? If so, what are they?
4. *Other than school assignments*, please list any experience you have with history (history clubs, a time period you enjoy reading/learning about, reenactments, etc.).



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5. Describe a time when you were new to a group and how you got to know others.

6. Do you have any historic skills? If so, please describe.

_____ Sewing

_____ Weaving

_____ Carpentry

_____ Crochet/Knitting

_____ Character Portrayal

_____ Music Instrument

_____ Gardening

_____ Painting/Sketching

_____ Cane Pole Fishing

_____ Other

Describe:

7. Do you have any experience working with animals such as pets and/or livestock? If so, please describe.



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8. Do you have other special characteristics that would make you a good volunteer? If so, please describe.

_____ Timely _____ Works Independently _____ Follows Directions

_____ Communicates Well w/
Others _____ Works Well w/ Peers _____ Works Well w/
Younger Children

_____ Works Well w/ Adults _____ Age Appropriate Maturity _____ Good Work Ethic

_____ Other

Describe:

9. How did you hear about the Youth Volunteer Program?

_____ Friends _____ School _____ 4-H _____ FFA

_____ Boy Scouts _____ Girl Scouts _____ Social Media _____ Newspaper

Other: (describe)

10. How do you feel about being outdoors?

11. Describe what you think excellent customer service means. If you have experienced good customer service, please write about it.



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Frequently Asked Questions

When is my application due? Before or on **Friday, May 6, 2022.**

May I type my application?

Yes. Handwritten or typed is acceptable.

May I have help with my application?

It is important that your application is neat, so you may have help with spelling, typing, and handwriting; however, your parent is not the volunteer, **YOU** are! Make sure your application reflects your own unique self and interests.

Does my application have to be on this form?

No. If you prefer, you may copy the application into a word processing document on your computer.

How do I return my application to you?

By postal mail: Attn: Sara Hand, Assistant Director, Georgia Museum of Agriculture, 1392 Whiddon Mill Rd, Tifton, GA 31793.

Delivery: Georgia Museum of Agriculture, 1392 Whiddon Mill Rd, Administrative Office or the Country Store checkout desk. Put Attn: Sara Hand on the front of the envelope.

By email: sfhand@abac.edu

If you email your application, please make sure you receive a confirmation. This may take several days, but we will respond if we get it. We don't want to miss anyone due to an electronic error!

For other questions, call Sara Hand at 229-391-5208 or Chloe Holbrook at 229-391-5213.