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Volunteers Needed for the David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

The National Museum of Natural History has volunteer opportunities in support of its new Hall of Human Origins, which opens March 17, 2010. This permanent exhibition tells the epic story of human evolution and explores new answers to the question: What does it mean to be human?

Volunteers will guide visitors to parts of the exhibition that match their interests and share insights about the exhibition, the museum and the museum's Human Origins program. They will help visitors understand how humans evolved over millions of years in response to a changing world by answering questions, providing information and engaging visitors in the exhibition.

Museum educators and scientists will provide a 10-session training program, beginning Jan. 9, 2010, to prepare volunteers. The program will help volunteers facilitate a visitor experience that is rich in content, interactive and personally meaningful for all.

Volunteer eligibility requirements:

- Minimum age 18
- A commitment of eight hours a month for at least one year; four-hour assignments are available on weekdays or weekends. The typical shift is one four-hour assignment every other week
- Attendance at museum orientation and training sessions featuring lectures, workshops, lab activities, on-the-job experience, mentoring and independent study with museum educators and research scientists
- Good communication skills
- Willingness to learn

Volunteer benefits:

- Expanding and enriching an understanding of human origins
- Sharing a passion for science and learning with visitors to the museum
- Becoming a member of a dedicated community of educators and scientists
- Ongoing enrichment and professional development
- Free parking and Imax tickets
- 20 percent discount at Smithsonian gift shops

For a volunteer application, please visit

http://www.mnh.si.edu/education/volunteering_internships/volunteers.html.

To learn more about this volunteering opportunity, contact NHVolunteerInquiry@si.edu. You can also find more detailed information and complete a Volunteer Application Form online by going to <http://www.mnh.si.edu/education>.

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