

# Heritage Area Docent

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## Volunteer Description

The Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area celebrates the Schuylkill River watershed as one of America's most significant cultural, historical, and industrial regions. At our headquarters in Pottstown, we recently opened the River of Revolutions Interpretive Center, which illustrates and illuminates the crucial role of the Schuylkill River in the American, Industrial, and Environmental Revolutions, as well as the current Recreational Revolution. Our newest addition is the Pottstown RiverWalk, a loop trail located next to our headquarters that provides an outside educational space. While the indoor interpretive center discusses the three revolutions of the river and focuses more on the history of the Schuylkill River, the outdoor RiverWalk focuses on different aspects of nature along the Schuylkill River Trail. We hope to make this a popular destination for all, especially for members of the local community and trail users.

**Job overview:** We foresee our location as a destination for historical and environmental education and we invite you to be a part of our initiative to further cultivate education, tourism, and recreation in the region. In order for us to increase our accessibility and engage the public we are implementing weekend hours for our facility to be open to the public. Docents will oversee the River of Revolutions Interpretive Center on Saturdays during the hours of 9:00A.M.to 12:00P.M. Docents will be responsible for one three-hour shift each month from May-October.

Docents will engage trail users and visitors in Riverfront Park and encourage them to explore the River of Revolutions Interpretive Center and the Pottstown RiverWalk. They will provide information to the public and answer any questions about the history of the heritage area and/or Schuylkill River Trail. In addition, docents will also be responsible for operating the Bike Pottstown bike share program at the Schuylkill River Heritage Area (SRHA) facility.

**Responsibilities:** The responsibilities of the Heritage Area Docent include but are not limited to:

- Obtain State Background Check
- Attend an orientation workshop
- Interact with the general public in a professional and courteous manner
- Administer tours of the River of Revolutions Interpretive Center to visitors
- Provide information about the important role of the Schuylkill River watershed in the American, Industrial, and Environmental revolutions
- Explain and guide visitors through the Pottstown RiverWalk
- Answer common questions about the Schuylkill River Trail and provide information such as trail maps
- Notify visitors of upcoming SRHA events
- Assist with Bike Pottstown, a free bike share program, by keeping record of individuals using bikes
- Complete a time log to record hours
- Wear the provided t-shirt when serving as a Heritage Area Docent to be clearly identifiable

**Benefits:**

- Participation in a program that supports the Schuylkill River Heritage Area (SRHA) and the Schuylkill River Trail, one of the region's most treasured recreational features
- Gain an in-depth knowledge about the Schuylkill River Heritage Area and the integral role it has on the area's culture and history

**Qualifications:**

- Be at least 21 years old
- Be friendly, approachable, and patient
- Be willing to learn about the SRHA and the Schuylkill River Trail
- Be able to communicate with the general public
- Be able to engage visitors and trail users

**Time commitment:**

- Heritage Area Docents are required to volunteer 3 hours a month from May to October. There is no upper limit to the number of hours.

**To Apply**

Please contact Sarah Crothers, the SRHA Education Coordinator, by email at [scrothers@schuylkillriver.org](mailto:scrothers@schuylkillriver.org) or by phone at 484-945-0200 to set up an interview.