December 2026 - May 2027

READING PUBLIC MUSEUM
AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

MUSEUM AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Reading Public Museum

Program Information Packet

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ABOUT RPM

MISSION: The Reading Public Museum is a dynamic center of lifelong learning, that collects, preserves, and interprets objects of art, science, and civilization to engage, educate, and enlighten current and future generations from our diverse communities.

Over the last century, RPM has grown to include a state-of-the-art Planetarium, 25-acre Arboretum featuring historic trees and rare plants, and permanent and temporary exhibition spaces. RPM offers educational and community outreach through school tours, workshops, lectures, outdoor events, summer camps, and sensory inclusive programming. The Museum has welcomed and inspired multiple generations of families from the communities of Reading, Berks County, and beyond, while continuing to pursue the founder's mission of sensory learning and the preservation of knowledge.



DISCOVER. CONNECT. INSPIRE.

Expand your horizons, meet fascinating people, and bring history, art, science, and culture to life.

Become a Reading Public Museum Ambassador!

The Reading Public Museum invites motivated, curious, and enthusiastic students to apply to our Museum Ambassador Program. As an RPM Ambassador, you'll help create memorable experiences for our visitors while discovering what makes museums such inspiring places to learn. Whether your interests include history, education, art, or the museum field, this is an exciting opportunity to share your enthusiasm, build new skills, and make a meaningful difference.

More Than Volunteering—An Opportunity to Grow.

The Museum Ambassador Program is designed to benefit both The Museum and the students who serve as its Ambassadors. By supporting The Museum's mission and engaging with our visitors, you'll help strengthen our connection to the community while gaining valuable experience that supports your personal, academic, and professional growth.

Training for Success.

RPM Ambassadors will participate in structured training designed to build their knowledge, confidence, and effectiveness in engaging visitors. Training will cover museum history, permanent galleries, rotating exhibitions, and objects featured on the Hands-On Education Cart. Through hands-on learning and guided practice, ambassadors will develop the skills needed to facilitate meaningful visitor interactions, communicate key information about the objects, encourage curiosity, and create engaging educational experiences for visitors of all ages.

Ready to Make Your Mark?

If you're curious about the museum world, enjoy connecting with people, and want to turn your interests into meaningful experiences, we'd love to hear from you! Apply to become part of the RPM team that inspires curiosity, encourages learning, and makes a difference in our community.

PARAMETERS

Who Can Apply

We welcome high school juniors and seniors (ages 16+) as well as college freshmen and sophomores, who are eager to explore their interests, connect with their community, and gain valuable volunteer experience.

Ambassador Qualities

An ideal RPM Ambassador will be a friendly, dependable student who enjoys working independently and as part of a team, feels comfortable engaging with visitors, and is excited to help others discover something new.

Volunteer Status

The Museum Ambassador Program is a volunteer opportunity, not a paid position or formal internship. Ambassadors are not compensated for their service. Volunteer hours can be used towards school volunteer requirements.

2026-2027 Class

The program will run as a class of no more than 10 students for a 6-month timeframe. The class will be expected to work together and be supportive of each other as well as respectful of RPM staff time, Museum visitors, and supplied resources.

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Application

An application and in-person interview are required. An optional letter of recommendation from an advisor, coach, mentor, or other professional reference is suggested. Signed parental permission is necessary for all applicants under 18.

Hours

Ambassadors will be asked to volunteer for 10 hours/month. A shift can last between 2-6 hours. Additional hours will include completing trainings and preparing sufficiently with provided materials. Any time requirements can be flexible based on individual needs.

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM TIMELINE

December 2026:

Ambassador Program Kickoff -
Mandatory Orientation (two dates)

January 2027:

Optional In-Person Trainings
Emailed Training Materials

February 2027:

Optional In-Person Trainings
Emailed Training Materials

March 2027:

Optional In-Person Trainings
Emailed Training Materials

April 2027:

Optional In-Person Trainings
Emailed Training Materials

May 2027:

Program Completion -
Certificate Presentation

OBJECTIVES

Ambassador Growth

- **Make an Impact:** Help create welcoming, engaging, and memorable experiences for Museum visitors.
- **Build Valuable Skills:** Strengthen your communication, teamwork, leadership, and interpersonal skills.
- **Explore Your Interests:** Gain firsthand exposure to the museum field and discover potential career paths.

Ambassador Accomplishments

- **Grow Your Resume:** Add meaningful volunteer experience to your resume and applications.
- **Build Your Future:** Request a letter of recommendation from the program coordinator when applying for college, jobs, and other opportunities.
- **Celebrate Your Achievement:** Earn a personalized certificate upon successful completion of the program.

THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

A museum visitor experience is the intersection of exhibits, visitors, and the museum's mission — designed to make visitors identify with the institution, participate actively, and engage intellectually, emotionally, and socially.

Importance of Visitor Experience

Connecting with the Mission

Making personal connections for visitors

Participation of Visitors

Interacting in ways that foster deeper visitor learning

Social Engagement

Engrossing visitors to think and interact socially

Ambassadors will assist with...

Helpful Dialog

Answering visitor questions about The Museum

Interactive Learning

Manning the Hands-On Education Cart

Unique Exchange

Interacting with visitors in a polite and welcoming manner

OUR EXPERT TEAM

Our strength lies in the diverse expertise of our team and our shared commitment to excellence. Each team member brings unique knowledge and skills that contribute to the overall success of the Reading Public Museum.

Monthly in-person optional training sessions will provide Ambassadors with opportunities to learn directly from the team members who help RPM run smoothly. These sessions will focus on building knowledge, deepening understanding of The Museum's operations, and creating opportunities for discussion. An interactive Q&A will be an essential part of each in-person training, encouraging engagement with the class.



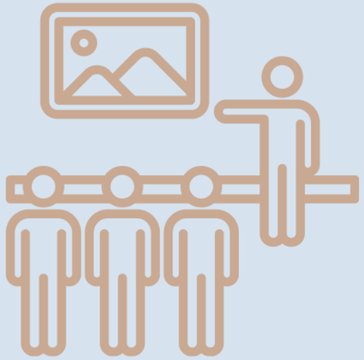
Leadership



Curatorial



Development



Education

HOW TO APPLY

Visit the Volunteer Page to access the link to the application in the Ambassador Section.

- Space is limited and competitive. The application will be removed from the website once the deadline to apply has passed. No late applications will be accepted. For the 2026-2027 school year, the application deadline is November 30, 2026.
- Students may participate in the Ambassador Program two times. Once two years have been completed, the student is no longer eligible to apply.
- Applications and questions may be emailed to Lauren.Kehres@readingpublicmuseum.org
- Applicants will be contacted via the email provided to schedule an in-person interview. After completion of the interview, applicants will be notified of acceptance. Important dates for the program will be reviewed at this time. Hours for trainings and shifts will mostly be weekends and after-school timeframes.
- Please note: background clearances may be required for placement in the program.