**House of the Binns - Tour Guide**

**Volunteer Role Description**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Directorate**: Operations / Forth Valley |  |
| **Volunteer Manager**: Visitor Services Manager |
| **Suggested Time Commitment**: 2+ hrs per week Shift basis – regular agreed day and times |
| **Type of role:**Ongoing role – no defined end date |

**Why do you need me?**

We are looking for people who are passionate about history and heritage to bring history to life and tell the stories of the house, and the people who lived here.

Set in beautiful, landscaped parkland the House of the Binns has been the home of the Dalyell family for over 400 years. Its inhabitants have played leading roles in the nation’s history from the time of the covenanters to the present day. The Binns was given to the NTS in 1944 to preserve ‘its history, and legend and the memory of the family of Dalyell of the Binns…for all time coming for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation’.

**What’s included in the role?**

* Welcoming visitors and helping them to enjoy their visit
* Taking visitors on tours of the house
* Acting as an ambassador for the NTS

**Why should I volunteer in this role?**

This role will give you the opportunity to meet people from around the world and help them learn about the history of The House of the Binns. You will be provided with full training and will be part of the team that re-opens The Binns to the public. Volunteers can get involved in other opportunities such as events, conservation of collection and research. Trust volunteers can attend special events including training sessions and are recognised for their work through our national thank you programmes.

**Who will I be working with?**

You will be working with a team of other volunteers and Trust employees. If you need help while volunteering, your volunteer manager or another appointed person will also be around to assist.

**Do I need any previous experience for this role?**

In general, you don’t need any specific experience or qualifications to volunteer with us.

For this role, we’re looking for someone who is enthusiastic about the work of the Trust, passionate about its values and objectives, and is happy to engage with people of all ages and background. You’ll be able to provide clear and helpful information to our visitors, conveying your interest and enthusiasm for the House of the Binns and its history to a wide variety of people.

We’ll provide an induction and training for you (all about the Trust, its values and your role) to get started, and we’ll also provide training sessions to help you deliver your tours. You’ll also have free access to all of the courses in our online e-learning system.

**Who can volunteer with the Trust?**

We have an Equality and Diversity policy, and our volunteering opportunities are open to anyone to apply. After you apply, we’ll get in touch to arrange an informal chat with you, to help you understand a bit more about the role and see if it’s right for you.

**What if I need some extra help to volunteer?**

Most of our volunteer roles are flexible and can be tailored to meet your needs, although due to the shift pattern for this role, here we’re looking for volunteers who are regularly available at specific times. Our volunteer managers will be happy to discuss any help that you might need to volunteer, including adapting the role or assisting with volunteer expenses, when you first meet up.

**Will you carry out any checks before I can start this role?**

For this role, we don’t carry out reference checks, and you won’t be required to have a criminal record check. If there’s any information you’d like to share with us, you will have the opportunity to do this when completing your application / registration form.

**What’s the next step?**

You can apply online now for this role through our website application portal.

If you would like some extra information before applying, you can contact Helen Knox, on houseofthebinns@nts.org.uk or hknox@nts.org.uk

**Last Revision Date**: 19/1/24