



Dear prospective FYI volunteer,

Thank you for your interest in the Fernbank Youth Interpreter (FYI) volunteer program at Fernbank Museum of Natural History. FYI volunteers are essential to many of our educational programs, as well as helping to provide many one-on-one educational experiences for our visitors. We are currently seeking volunteers to start during the **summer of 2022** and become part of our June 2022 – May 2023 FYI Volunteer team.

To apply, fill out all parts of this packet and return them before **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**.

- Application
- Essay
- **Two** reference forms. Reference forms must be completed by adults who are not related to you. One reference must be from a teacher (science teacher preferred) or counselor. Homeschool students may use a non-relative reference from scouts, music lessons, sports, etc.

Please read the Frequently Asked Questions, found at the end of the application, before applying. Incomplete applications will not be accepted, so please enter your information on all forms carefully.

Return all materials (as scanned images or document files) via email:

Email: FYI@FernbankMuseum.org

Once your complete application is received, all materials will be reviewed. If you are selected for an interview, you will be contacted directly by a Fernbank Education staff member by email. Please make sure you provide **legible** and accurate email addresses and phone numbers; multiple email addresses are ideal in case any of our emails get blocked or flagged as spam.

Interviews will take place at the end of March and beginning of April. Please read the interview tips listed in the Frequently Asked Questions section before your scheduled interview. If you are selected for the program after the interview, training will begin after the school year in May or the beginning of June.

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to receiving your application!

Education Department
Fernbank Museum

Email to:
FYI@FernbankMuseum.org



All information provided will be kept private and confidential.
Please return to Fernbank Museum of Natural History by **March 1, 2022**
to be considered for the 2022-2023 season starting June 2022.

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION		
Last Name:	First Name:	Birthday:
Preferred First Name (if different):		Preferred Pronoun(s):
Street Address:	City/State:	Zip code:
Phone:	Email Address:	
Parent/Guardian Name:	Phone Number(s):	
E-mail Address(s):		
Parent/Guardian Name:	Phone Number(s):	
Email Address(s):		

EDUCATION		
Current Grade:	School Name:	County:
Are you currently homeschooled?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you currently on a federal lunch plan?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

REASON FOR VOLUNTEERING		
<input type="checkbox"/> Learn about Natural History	<input type="checkbox"/> Learn about Educating Children	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
Are you required by your school to volunteer?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	How many hours?
Are you required by another organization or club to volunteer?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Name of Organization:	How many hours?
Tell us about yourself. Do you have any special skills, interests, or hobbies?		
How did you hear about the FYI program?		

WORK OR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE			
<u>Name of Organization</u>	<u>Length of Service</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Description of Role</u>

Email to:
FYI@FernbankMuseum.org

AVAILABILITY

Please check all the times you are potentially available:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Morning | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Morning | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekday Morning (Summertime) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Afternoon | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Afternoon | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekday Afternoon (Summertime) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Breaks (Spring Break, MLK Day, etc.) | | |

REQUESTS

Do you have any allergies, need any special accommodations, or have any other requests that we should know about so we can create a safe space for you to volunteer and successfully teach museum guests?

Please explain:

ESSAY

Please submit a one-page essay with this application. Essay should include answers to these questions:

- Why are you interested in becoming a FYI volunteer and volunteering at Fernbank Museum?
- Public education is a major component of being a FYI volunteer. How do you feel about helping children and families learn more about natural history?
- Tell us about your communication skills. What are your strengths? What would you like to work on?
- Why do you think you would make a good ambassador for Fernbank Museum?

REFERENCES

Two references are required; please see the attached forms. Both references must be from an adult who is not related to you. One of the two references **must** be from a teacher (science teacher preferred) or guidance counselor.

<u>Reference Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Email</u>
1.			
2.			

DISCLAIMER AND SIGNATURE

Please check the following to show that you have read and understand:

- ☐ I understand that there is a one-time \$50 fee to participate in this program that covers training materials. This fee is due after being accepted to the program and before new FYI volunteer training. Special activities outside of regular volunteering shifts, such as field trips, might have additional fees or conditions to participate. Fee may be waived for those that qualify— contact the FYI Volunteer Manager upon acceptance to the program if needed.
- ☐ I understand that an interview may be scheduled in March or April to help determine if I will be accepted into the program.
- ☐ I understand there are mandatory training sessions to attend in order to become a FYI volunteer.
- ☐ I hereby grant permission to Fernbank Museum of Natural History to use my likeness in photograph(s) or video for any purposes relating to the museum, including, but not limited to, promotion, public relations, marketing and the museum's website. The museum may use the photograph(s)/video without further permission from me and without any compensation. Additionally, I acknowledge the museum's right to alter, crop or treat the photograph at its discretion.

Applicant Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

REFERENCE FORM

Interested FYI volunteer applicants should have two reference forms completed by adults.

Note that the form has two pages. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

- Adults cannot be related to the FYI volunteer applicant
- One of the two referrals **MUST** be from a teacher (science teacher preferred) or counselor
- Homeschool students may use a non-relative reference from scouts, music lessons, sports, etc.

Please return to Fernbank Museum of Natural History by **March 1, 2022**.

Dear Teacher/Counselor/Adult,

_____ has applied to participate in the FYI volunteer program at Fernbank Museum of Natural History and has chosen you as a reference. Participants commit to a minimum of 45 hours of service over the course of one year, with a monthly obligation of 3-4 hours during the school year and 6-8 hours monthly in June and July. As FYI volunteers they will assist Fernbank Museum visitors, provide hands-on activities, offer basic information about science and natural history, and help with educational programming offered at Fernbank Museum.

Thank you for taking the time to recommend this applicant. Please fill out the following form to the best of your knowledge and cite examples when possible. Feel free to attach additional pages if necessary to better describe this applicant. If you have any questions, please email FYI@FernbankMuseum.org.

Please use the following scale to rate the applicant.

1= Below Average; 2= Fair; 3= Average; 4= Good; 5= Excellent; 6= Outstanding; U= Unknown

Oral Communication Skills	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Dependability	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Maturity	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to Follow Directions	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability To Be Self-Motivated	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to Work Well With Others	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Willingness to Learn	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to Solve Problems	1	2	3	4	5	6	U

Please tell us why this applicant would be a great addition to the FYI volunteer program.

Reference form for _____

Please tell us how this applicant would benefit from participating in the FYI volunteer program.

Do you feel the applicant has the ability to balance school, other obligations, and the commitment to the FYI volunteer program?

Other comments or concerns:

I recommend this applicant with (circle one):

Serious Reservations

Slight Hesitation

Confidence

Great Enthusiasm

Signature:

Date:

Printed Name:

Title or Relation to Applicant:

REFERENCE FORM

Interested FYI volunteer applicants should have two reference forms completed by adults.

Note that the form has two pages. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

- Adults cannot be related to the FYI volunteer applicant
- One of the two referrals **MUST** be from a teacher (science teacher preferred) or counselor
- Homeschool students may use a non-relative reference from scouts, music lessons, sports, etc.

Please return to Fernbank Museum of Natural History by **March 1, 2022**.

Dear Teacher/Counselor/Adult,

_____ has applied to participate in the FYI volunteer program at Fernbank Museum of Natural History and has chosen you as a reference. Participants commit to a minimum of 45 hours of service over the course of one year, with a monthly obligation of 3-4 hours during the school year and 6-8 hours monthly in June and July. As FYI volunteers they will assist Fernbank Museum visitors, provide hands-on activities, offer basic information about science and natural history, and help with educational programming offered at Fernbank Museum.

Thank you for taking the time to recommend this applicant. Please fill out the following form to the best of your knowledge and cite examples when possible. Feel free to attach additional pages if necessary to better describe this applicant. If you have any questions, please email FYI@FernbankMuseum.org.

Please use the following scale to rate the applicant.

1= Below Average; 2= Fair; 3= Average; 4= Good; 5= Excellent; 6= Outstanding; U= Unknown

Oral Communication Skills	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Dependability	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Maturity	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to Follow Directions	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability To Be Self-Motivated	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to Work Well With Others	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Willingness to Learn	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to Solve Problems	1	2	3	4	5	6	U

Please tell us why this applicant would be a great addition to the FYI volunteer program.

Reference form for _____

Please tell us how this applicant would benefit from participating in the FYI volunteer program.

Do you feel the applicant has the ability to balance school, other obligations, and the commitment to the FYI volunteer program?

Other comments or concerns:

I recommend this applicant with (circle one):

Serious Reservations

Slight Hesitation

Confidence

Great Enthusiasm

Signature:

Date:

Printed Name:

Title or Relation to Applicant:

FYI Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions

When can a youth become a FYI volunteer?

Youth can apply to be a volunteer during spring recruitment. New FYI volunteers are only accepted at this time and not all applicants are accepted into the program. Applicants who applied in previous years, but were not invited into the program, are encouraged to reapply. FYI volunteers accepted into the program begin volunteering in June.

How old do you have to be to volunteer?

All interested FYI volunteers must be a minimum of 13 years old by September 1, 2022 to apply. New applicants should be a maximum of 17 years old by June 1, 2022. FYI Volunteers who turn 18 during the FYI year (June 2022 through May 2023) remain in the volunteer program until the end of the season. All interested applicants 18 and older may apply to participate in our adult volunteer program.

What type of commitment is required to be a FYI volunteer?

FYI volunteers commit to one year, which runs from June through May of the following year. FYI volunteers are required to dedicate a minimum of 45 hours throughout the year, or one shift per month during the school year and two shifts per month during the summer (June and July). Shifts are generally 3 to 4.5 hours long, but can vary for special activities. All FYI volunteers must attend a new volunteer orientation and additional trainings throughout the year may be required for other opportunities. New FYI volunteers must also pay a onetime \$50 fee to participate, which helps cover materials. This fee will be collected after being accepted into the program and before your initial training. The fee may be waived for those that qualify—contact the FYI Volunteer Manager upon acceptance to the program if needed.

If accepted, can I volunteer for more than one year?

Once accepted into the program, FYI volunteers can continue volunteering in following years. Every year a recommitment form is sent to all active volunteers. FYI volunteers who are interested in continuing with the program agree to commit an additional 45 hours for the coming June - May year and return the recommitment form. Those continuing with the program do not have to pay an additional \$50 fee.

Those who turn 18 years old or graduate high school over the course of the year, age out of the program at the end of May. Volunteers who age out of the FYI program, but would like to keep volunteering with the museum, may join our adult volunteer program.

What kind of benefits do FYI volunteers receive?

FYI volunteers receive ongoing educational experiences, training in science communication, training for various science topics, a volunteer uniform t-shirt, discounts at the Museum Stores, discounts in the Fernbank café, and free admission to Fernbank Museum and the Giant Screen Theater with their nametag. Educational and social activities may also be offered at various times, as well as recognition for achievements, Presidential Service Awards and a thank you gift for every 50 hours worked. FYI volunteers work side by side with real Fernbank Museum scientists, gain public speaking skills, presentation skills, and learn about natural history in a unique setting. In addition, a few advanced opportunities are only extended to FYI volunteers who have achieved 50 hours or more of service with the museum.

Do FYI volunteers have a uniform?

FYI volunteers are required to wear the FYI t-shirt and name badge when volunteering, which will be provided at training. Non-athletic shorts/pants/skirts and shoes are also required.



I've been selected for an interview, what can I expect?

Practice interviewing ahead of time with an adult or a friend. We'll be asking you about your personality, interests, academics, and how you might fit at Fernbank Museum. Be prepared enough to make a good impression, but not so much that you seem rehearsed and unnatural. Be confident and enthusiastic! If you're unfamiliar with Fernbank Museum, learn more about us at www.fernbankmuseum.org.

Here are some examples of the kind of questions we might ask:

- Why do you want to be a FYI volunteer? (more than just "it will be fun")
- Why are you a good candidate to be a FYI volunteer?
- What skills do you expect to learn as a FYI volunteer?
- How do you expect guests want to be treated when visiting Fernbank Museum?
- Be able to identify and discuss your strengths and skills.

The FYI Volunteer program is very competitive and we are unfortunately not able to accept everyone who applies or interviews each year. Candidates who are not accepted or invited for an interview this year are encouraged to reapply next year.

If you have any additional questions, please email us at FYI@FernbankMuseum.org.