

Kathryn H. Shelton
Director

Division of Libraries, Archives,
& Museums
PO Box 110571
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0571
907.465.2910

SEAL OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT**

Bruce Kato
Chief Curator

Alaska State Museums
395 Whittier St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1718
907.465.2901
www.museums.state.ak.us

Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **April 29, 2008**

State Museum Seeks Docents

Have you ever thought about working in a museum? Would you like to help show off the state's extraordinary collection of historic treasures? The Alaska State Museum needs you!

The State Museum is recruiting new docents - volunteers who specialize in giving tours of the museum. Training sessions will be held May 7, 8 and 9, and will highlight objects on display.

The Alaska State Museum Docent Program is a volunteer activity in which individuals are trained in the fundamentals of museum education. They then conduct individually designed tours of the galleries for visitors of all ages. Tours are typically forty-five minutes long, and schedules are arranged to fit the docent's availability. During the summer, tours are offered throughout the day, and focus on an overview of the permanent collection or the summer exhibitions. During the rest of the year, tours are offered as requested, and are designed specifically for each requesting group. Docent tours foster visitor appreciation and an understanding of the cultures, history, art and nature of Alaska.

Docents recommit to the program on a yearly basis. Each spring the Alaska State Museum hosts a series of training workshops in which docents, both returning and new, hone their skills of interpreting exhibitions, interpersonal communication, and help create an atmosphere of excitement and inspiration at the State Museum.

Those interested in registering for docent training should contact Mary Irvine at 465-2901, or via e-mail at: mary.irvine@alaska.gov.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Mary Irvine

Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976

www.museums.state.ak.us

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