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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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## Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **March 4, 2011**

### DOCENT TRAINING CLASSES FORMING NOW AT ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

JUNEAU – What do ... an Inupiaq whaling captain and crew, etchings from La Perouse Expedition and Captain Cook's voyage, fifty antique photographs and several glass plate negatives, artist sketchbooks, a little Russian Orthodox Church history, several hundred feet of spruce tree roots, the Battles of 1802 and 1804, seventy different Alaskan hats and one Siberian hat, current bear research, and cutting edge contemporary Native art ... have in common? They are all featured in the Docent Training Program this year at the Alaska State Museum!

The class repeats each spring (this year mid-March through mid-April) with different workshop presenters who will train volunteers to give insightful highlights tours of the exhibits on display at the Museum. This year, the classes will be held on some Thursday afternoons and some Saturday mornings at the Museum.

A love of Alaska, a basic interest in history and cultures, and a desire to transmit interesting information to summer visitors are required. Beyond that, it's just fun and a little bit of training in interpretive techniques.

The summer schedule for giving tours is flexible since all Alaskans have lots of stuff to do in the summer. Giving docent tours can be a terrific way to spend a rainy summer afternoon and show off Alaska as well. If you'd like more information on becoming an in-house tour guide at the State Museum, please contact the Museum by Friday, March 18th at 465-2901, or by e-mailing [mary.irvine@alaska.gov](mailto:mary.irvine@alaska.gov).

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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[www.museums.state.ak.us](http://www.museums.state.ak.us)

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[return to top](#)

[press releases](#) | [Alaska State Museum](#)