

Volunteer Role Profile



Role title: Cleaner

Department: Steam Locomotive Department

Responsible to: Steam Traction Inspector/Head of Operations

Hours: Generally 0600-1800, although times may vary. Depending on our operating calendar, there are both weekend and mid-week opportunities. Volunteers input their availability on a rolling monthly basis so there is no requirement for an upfront regular commitment. Those wishing to progress to Fireman training are expected to volunteer a minimum of one day per month.

Purpose: Our Steam Locomotive Department has a traditional structure, which sees new-joiners starting as cleaners before being selected for further training. The role of a cleaner provides a very good introduction to the work of the department. You will spend time learning the basics whilst assisting the Fireman and Driver with their preparation and end-of-day tasks. Turning out gleaming locomotives is not just for show, it is also an essential part of the ongoing maintenance process, which department volunteers are encouraged to become involved with.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Assist the Fireman and Driver with locomotive preparation duties
- Maintain our high presentation standards by turning out clean locomotives, including ensuring that mechanical components are kept free of a build up of dirt and grease
- Ensuring that the locomotive preparation area is kept clean and tidy
- Assist the Fireman and Driver with end-of-day tasks
- Volunteers are encouraged to become involved with light maintenance duties, as required, within the department. E.g. Assisting with boiler washouts
- Develop knowledge about steam locomotive construction and operation as well as fundamental principles of railway working
- Work as an integral part of the wider team to operate the railway in a safe and timely manner, liaising across other Operations and Engineering department roles

Training: You don't need to have lots of knowledge about railways or history, just an enthusiasm to become involved and get your hands dirty!

You are not expected to have all the skills you will require to carry out this role. Training will be provided to carry out your role with confidence and to the standards set, including:

- Induction, ongoing training and support

- Rules and Regulations for working on the railway (on joining, you will be issued with our rule book which you will need to become familiar with. To progress to Fireman training and beyond you will be assessed on its content)
- Personal Track Safety qualification
- The correct use of Personal Protective Equipment
- Theoretical knowledge of steam locomotives and railway operation (we run a number of training courses, known as 'Mutual Improvement Classes' to share information and experience)

You would be a good fit for this role if you:

- Enjoy the prospect of working with our steam locomotives
- Are not afraid of getting your hands (and much more besides) dirty!
- Have a good level of physical fitness (volunteers in this department may be subject to medicals)
- Work well both independently and as part of a team
- Can communicate clearly with others and act responsibly at all times
- Recognise that, if you are looking to progress to Fireman training, that it will take sustained and regular commitment over a number of years and that you will need to achieve the required standards and levels of experience

Dress code:

As a minimum, volunteers within the steam locomotive department will need to provide safety boots, cotton overalls (boiler suit or similar), gloves and orange high-visibility vests. Disposable PPE such as rubber gloves, masks and goggles are available on site for use by volunteers. Further details on clothing, including period footplate uniform, will be provided during induction. We understand that this entails a cost and so advise new volunteers not to invest in clothing and equipment until they are sure that they are a good fit for the role.

Benefits of volunteering:

In joining us you will become part of a friendly team dedicated to the restoration, upkeep, operation and development of our railway. You'll gain new skills, meet new people and help to create lasting memories for our visitors and yourself. As a volunteer you will have access to a number of benefits:

- Volunteer's discount for purchases from the Buffet (whilst on duty)
- Access to basic mess facilities with free tea and coffee making facilities
- Reciprocal arrangements with selected other Heritage Railways

We encourage all volunteers to become members of the Avon Valley Railway Heritage Trust to receive the full range of benefits, including:

- Discounted travel on our usual steam and heritage diesel train services
- Discounted purchases from the gift shop
- Regular updates from across the railway and our in-house magazine, Semaphore
- Opportunities for social events and members' activities throughout the year

This role is filled on a voluntary basis. This is not a legally binding or employment contract.