

Returning Citizen Tour Guides

Positions open in spring 2018

Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site (ESPHS) seeks outgoing, engaging, and creative Returning Citizens to staff a cutting-edge guided tour program. The goals of this tour program are to increase empathy in the historic site's visitors and humanize the issues surrounding mass incarceration by bringing formerly incarcerated people directly in conversation with historic site visitors.

Returning Citizen Tour Guides are responsible for leading tours for a broad audience; this may often involve discussing personal experience with incarceration. Most visitors to ESPHS do not have personal experience with the criminal justice system, and are tourists to Philadelphia. These tours provide a unique opportunity for people who want to tell their story to deepen the discussion about criminal justice in the United States.

You are a great fit for this job if you are:

- Previously incarcerated (released within the past five years).
- A clear, confident, thoughtful, and open public speaker with the desire to speak with the public about personal experiences, including your connection to incarceration.
- Willing to discuss politically and culturally sensitive subject matter (ie: prison, crime, and race) in a way that fosters space for diverse opinions that may differ from your own.
- Confident in leading conversations and making people feel comfortable.
- Willing to take direction and coaching as a public speaker.
- Eager to learn detailed information about history, public policy, and architecture.
- Someone who has successfully completed a specialized program, for example – a re-entry program, vocational training, or educational program.
- Flexible and adapt quickly.
- Exceptional in providing customer service.
- Work well on your own, but also enjoy teamwork and collaboration.
- Able to work outdoors in all types of weather.

About ESPHS:

When Eastern State opened more than 180 years ago, it changed the world. The first prison of its kind – a penitentiary – it was designed to inspire true regret in the hearts of criminals. The building itself was an architectural wonder; it had running water and central heat before the White House, and attracted visitors from around the globe. Although the prison now stands in ruin, its story remains relevant today.

When Eastern State Penitentiary opened as a historic site in 1994, it attracted just over 10,000 daytime visitors – in 2016 more than 230,000 people visited. The site's staff and programming continue to grow by inviting the public into new spaces, mounting original exhibits and artist installations, and engaging visitors in conversations about the history and legacy of the building.

ESPHS is open every day, year-round from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information please visit easternstate.org.

[Interested in applying, becoming a hiring partner, or learning more?](#)

Contact Lauren Zalut, Director of Education and Tour Programs,
lz@easternstate.org.