

Frequently Asked Questions

Volunteering at the Homes by Architects Tour



Q: What do volunteers do?

You should be comfortable performing the following duties before you sign up for a volunteer shift:

- Sitting outdoors for up to four hours (shelter will be provided in the event of poor weather conditions)
- Handling and counting money and making change
- Tracking the number of visitors who tour the home during your shift
- Greeting visitors and providing general information about rules of the tour
- Answering general questions about the tour

Q: Is transportation to and from the tour home provided?

All volunteers are responsible for arranging transportation to and from the tour home at which you choose to work. Many homes are easily accessible by public transportation.

Q: Can I sign up for more than one shift?

Yes! For each shift you work, you receive a free tour ticket. If you want to earn free admission for a friend or spouse, you are welcome to sign up for a second shift. However, volunteers are expected to fulfill all shifts for which you sign up.

Q: What if I find I cannot fulfill my shift after I sign up?

Volunteers are responsible for finding a replacement should you be unable to fulfill your duties, especially if it is less than 48 hours before tour weekend. Please contact AIA Minnesota if you encounter difficulty finding a replacement.

Q: What if there is a problem during my shift?

All volunteers are provided with a list of cell phone numbers of the tour organizer and planning committee members. You are encouraged to call someone from the list should you need help or if you are unsure about how to handle a situation. You should also feel welcome to consult the architect and firm members for assistance.

Q: What is the dress code for volunteers?

Dress comfortably! Business casual attire is recommended, but weather is often variable. Dressing in layers is a good idea.

Q: Are restroom facilities provided for volunteers?

The architect at the home can direct you to the restroom. Typically the homeowner will identify a restroom for architects, volunteers, and firm employees to use during tour hours. The restroom will NOT be available for use by the public.

Q: Can I bring something to eat and drink during my shift?

Yes! Bring coffee, water, or other beverages to keep hydrated and snacks or other food. No alcoholic beverages are permitted at any of the tour homes.

Q: Will I be trained before my shift?

Two volunteer training sessions will be offered during the week prior to the tour. You may choose to watch the orientation webinar if you are unable to attend either of the live sessions. Volunteers will receive a training packet at the training session, and a packet will also be provided at each volunteer station at tour homes.

Still have questions? Please contact Angie McKinley at mckinley@aia-mn.org or **(612) 338-6763**.