



SCFM White Gloves Gang on the Road Information for Institutions

Background

The SCFM White Glove Gang (WGG) assists South Carolina museums and cultural organizations with collections care projects through a day of hands-on volunteer service.

Since 2012, the SCFM WGG has assisted The Georgetown County Museum, The Museum (Greenwood, SC), The National Steeplechase Museum, the South Carolina Railroad Museum and the Marion County Museum with projects including:

- Making padded hangers for textiles
- Adding protective archival barriers to exhibition display cases
- Completing collection inventories
- Object numbering
- Storage projects including re-housing of objects into archival boxes
- Cleaning Plexiglas cases and other exhibition furniture
- Assisting the archival processing and data entry

Cost to Institution

There is no cost to an institution for White Gloves Gang on the Road services and general supplies for projects are included. SCFM will provide lunch and snacks for WGG volunteers. Assistance from the host institution with lunches or snacks is always appreciated but not expected. WGG on the Road recipients should be members of the South Carolina Federation of Museums (or have staffs who are individual members).

What is required of a WGG Institution?

Space: Ideally, our volunteers will be working on multiple collections and exhibitions projects (suggested by the host institution) over the course of the day. Teams will need space to work, and the ability to spread out, particularly when rehousing collection items or freshening up exhibition cases.

Access: The WGG does not expect access to secure storage areas. However if a suggested project requires working on items from storage, we would ask the host to make the objects accessible to our crew in a way that everyone is comfortable with.

Flexibility: WGG days are fun! They are also a frenetic mix of activity, problem solving, questions, more questions, stops and starts, improvising and ultimate success! Our volunteers are there to help with your collection needs and all we ask is that staffs from the host institutions actively participate in the experience!

WGG Volunteers

SCFM will organize up to ten individuals (final number depends on projects and availability,) for a WGG on the Road Service Project from the existing pool of WGG volunteers. The majority of our volunteers are South Carolina museum professionals who specialize in management of all types of collections (art, history, natural history, textiles, etc.). While collections experience is a plus, we also encourage volunteers who want to learn the ins and outs of collections management and use WGG as an additional training opportunity. Those with less experience will always be paired with a collections professional on projects. WGG volunteers do not receive monetary compensation from SCFM for their service.

What is the WGG process?

Once the application for WGG services has been submitted, the WGG Committee will work with your organization to set up a site visit. Site visits allow WGG organizers the opportunity to see the work spaces, view the collection and further define projects. WGG coordinators will also determine what types of archival supplies will be necessary to complete collection projects. SCFM has been fortunate to have archival supplies donated for WGG projects and we hope to continue our relationships with generous vendors. There is no cost to the organization for archival supplies and leftover materials remain at the site for future use. Big bonus!!

After the site visit, we'll set a date for the project (suggested by the host) and begin gathering our volunteer crew. The WGG On The Road program will be offered in the summer and fall. The host site will have a list of who is coming prior to the day of service.

WGG project days typically last from 8am-4pm with one hour for lunch. WGG Coordinators will arrive at your site around 8am to set up supply stations. Volunteers usually arrive at 9am. In the first half-hour we make introductions, review the projects and divide into teams. And then it's ready, set go!!

We usually order in lunch (local suggestions encouraged!) and set aside an hour to recharge. After lunch there are brief presentations about the project each team is completing, how they have tackled it, what collections management fundamentals are in use, etc. In this way we all learn from each other...and then it's back to work. Projects begin to wrap around 3:30pm and the day is complete by 4pm when, hopefully, your institution will see visible results of the volunteers' hard work!

What are the benefits of WGG on the Road Service?

Some of the many benefits of WGG service:

- A day devoted entirely to your collections.
- Interaction with seasoned collections professionals from around the state and multiple opportunities to learn best practices in collections management.
- Free archival supplies!
- Connection with a group of SCFM members who you can call on for future advice and assistance with collections.
- The potential to make headway on outstanding collections and exhibition projects.
- It's really FUN!