

Volunteer Opportunities with the Lake County Historical Society

There are many ways you can help the Lake County Historical Society and Museum! Aside from artifact and money donations, we have identified the following opportunities. Potential volunteers are not limited to only one opportunity and can provide multiple ways to help.

This is a living document that may be updated as new opportunities arise and projects are completed. We welcome submission of ideas to help that are not on this list.

Outreach: The Society could use your help with spreading the word about the Museum, Society, and Crown Point and Lake County history. Possibilities include running booths at fairs or other events, creating posts for our social media page, and finding other ways to connect with the community. An E-mail newsletter is one specific project we would like to launch in the future.

Event creation and planning: Why settle for going to someone else's event? As a volunteer, you could run an event sponsored by the Society that aligns with our goals, subject to approval by the Lake County Historical Society Board.

Website redesign and updates: Our new website at lchsmuseum.org was launched earlier this year thanks to the amazing work and assistance of Les Osborne, but we could use a regular volunteer with web design expertise. The website is run on WordPress and uses Elementor.

Digitization: The Society has obtained a large number of pictures and documents in its long history. Volunteers for digitization would scan these artifacts for the museum to have a digital copy both for preservation and to possibly share online through avenues such as the LCHS website or Facebook.

Wikipedia writing: The internet is an extremely useful way to find information, with Wikipedia being a common reference source, but a lot of information is not yet available online. Volunteers can write brand new articles such as for the Lake County Historical Society or build on existing ones such as for the [Lake County Courthouse](#).

Museum/courthouse tour guide: COVID greatly diminished requests for tours of the museum, but prior to COVID, we would regularly provide museum tours for elementary school students. Tour guides would provide tours to groups as scheduled. We have an existing tour script, but can work with volunteers to remake the experience after we have revised our mission and vision statements. We further hope to expand tours to include the courthouse as a whole.

Volunteer Opportunities with the Lake County Historical Society

Museum opening and closing: The museum needs volunteers to run the museum during open hours. Volunteers can spend the time working on other volunteer tasks and projects, talking to guests coming through the museum, or even working on personal projects when not busy. The museum is currently open Thursdays to Saturdays from 1 PM to 4 PM, May to October. We would like to have more open days and times depending on volunteer availability.

Board member: The Society could use more Board members to help run the Society and oversee the Museum. Board members attend Society meetings and would be expected to regularly participate in Society and Museum activities and decisions to help shape our direction. The first major activity for the Board will be forming new mission and vision statements. Additional specific duties may be involved if holding an officer position.

Artifact accession: The museum contains artifact gifts and loans donated over the past 40 years and older, and we occasionally accept new artifacts that fit our scope. Volunteers can assist by documenting new donated artifacts on paper and/or on our electronic database, PastPerfect. In addition, some artifacts in the museum either were not previously documented or their documentation is insufficient. These artifacts could use volunteer help in creating the best record we can make.

Artifact maintenance and display: Many artifacts need special care and maintenance over time. Time can leave certain materials very fragile to touch. Volunteers would assist in taking steps that would best preserve our artifacts. In some cases, this would mean putting the artifacts into storage if they are too fragile for display. Direct handling of these artifacts includes the opportunity to create new displays or create documentation about artifacts that would help tell their story to museum guests.