

2024 Smithsonian Volunteer Wrap Up

01 | 03 | 25

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Dear Volunteers,

As another year comes to a close, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your incredible dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment. Your selflessness and generosity of time has made a lasting impact, and we are truly grateful for everything you do.

Whether you've been with us for many years or joined us more recently, your contributions have been invaluable. From your time with the public to your work behind-the-scenes and everything in-between, the effort you've put in has helped create positive change and strengthened our community. You've gone above and beyond, showing not only your skills but also your kindness and dedication to the Smithsonian's mission.

Thanks to you, we've accomplished so much this year. Your support, enthusiasm, and teamwork has been key to everything we achieved in 2024.

We can't wait to see what you'll do in 2025! Thank you for being such an important part of the Smithsonian!

Warmly,
Office of Visitor Services and Volunteer Management



Back Row: Michael Rubin, Michelle Gelhausen, Alexis Nolan, Kristi Delich, Liane Jacobs, Ed Tudor
Front Row: Bridget Balog, Abbey Earich, Savannah Loebig, Troy Huber



Smithsonian Volunteer Year in Review

3,985

The number of volunteers who contributed hours in 2024

328,100

The number of volunteer hours reported by volunteers in 2024

97,723

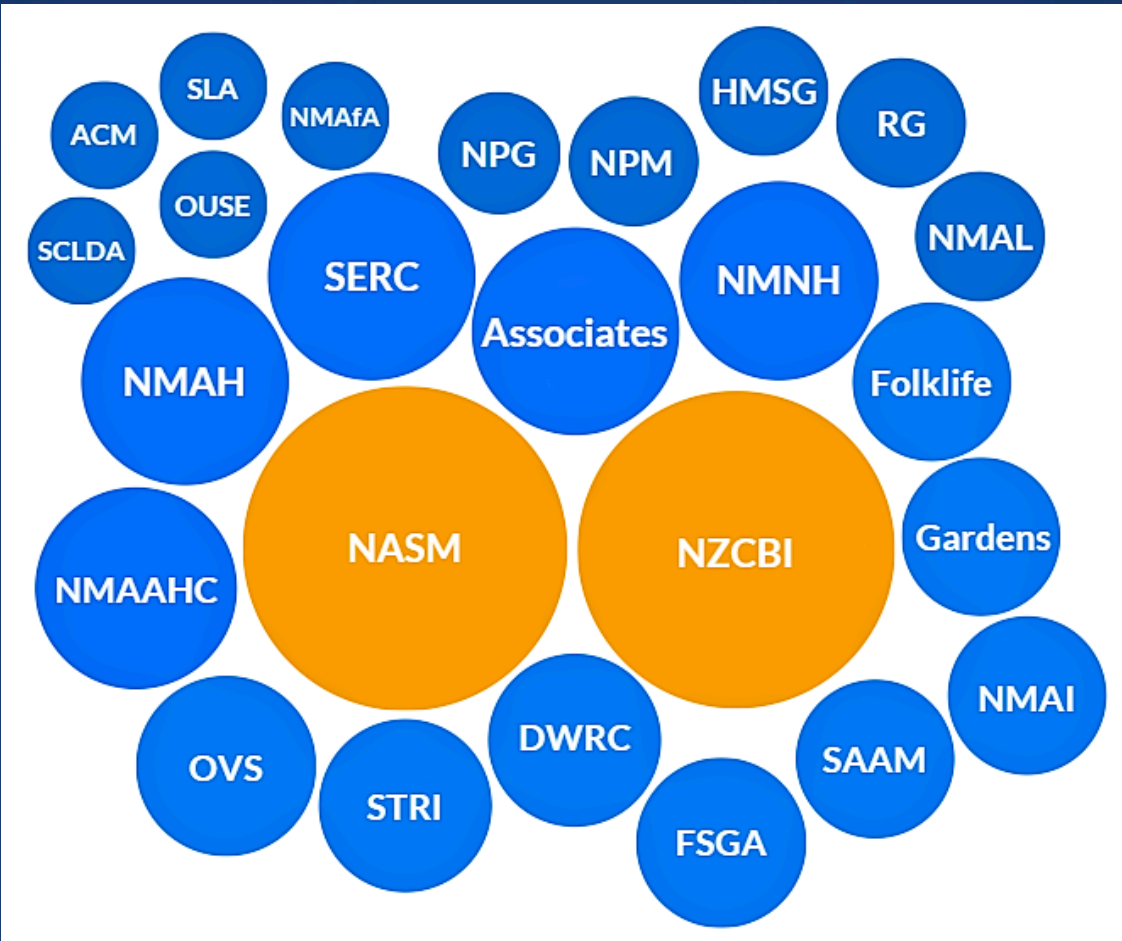
The number of active digital volunteers. Cumulative total from 2013 through 2024

145,328

The number of pages transcribed in 2024

25

The number of Smithsonian units who hosted volunteers in 2024

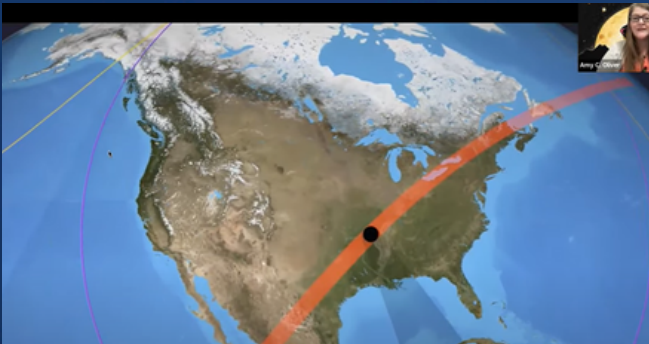


Bubbles represent size of volunteer program by number

*Volunteer numbers and hours are self-reported by volunteers and units

Volunteer Enrichment

OVS hosted a variety of enrichment opportunities for volunteers to learn about what's going on around the Smithsonian. Topics ranged from talks about the eclipse, to tours of art exhibitions, and more!



12

Number of enrichments offered

592

Number of volunteers who attended an enrichment



24

Number of units from which volunteers attended enrichments

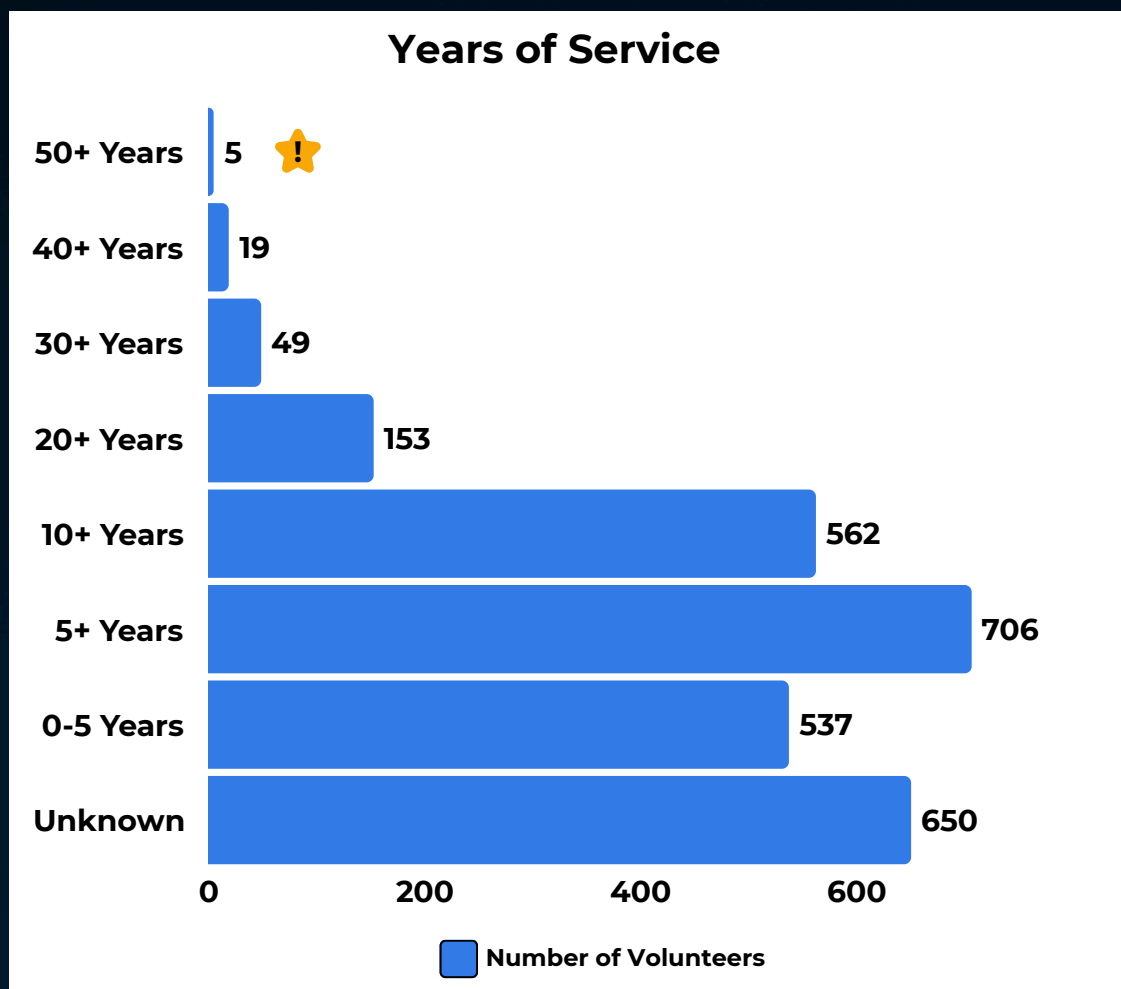


200+

Number of attendees at the in-person SI-Wide Volunteer Appreciation Event

Did you miss one of the enrichments? Are you interested in revisiting one of your favorites? Check out the [Private Smithsonian Volunteer Enrichment Playlist](#) on YouTube!

Smithsonian Volunteers by Years of Service



Volunteer years of service based on active date and hours as reported in VSys

Castle Renovations



As work continues on the Smithsonian Castle, we will be sure to keep you updated on the progress being made!

February 2025 marks two years since the Castle closed to the public.

This Fall there was an exciting find during work near the Castle. Workers discovered a hidden chamber!


Built in 1847 to store rainwater, the round brick cistern has been sealed for over 120 years.

According to a statement by the National Park Service, construction crews found the chamber's opening while working on utilities beneath Jefferson Drive. Learn more about this find [here](#)!



Photos courtesy of the National Park Service





End of the Year Reminders

VSys - Checking In/Out - Logging Hours

Help us make sure our statistics are even more accurate next year by logging your volunteer hours!

The easiest way to log your hours is in real time so that you don't forget. It is right on the main page after you log in at vol.si.edu.

To Check In: Select the Check In/Check Out tile with the stopwatch. Select the Opportunity you're volunteering with and then hit Check In.

To Check Out: When you're done volunteering with that Opportunity for that day, log back into vol.si.edu and Select Check In/Out again and input any relevant information on the next page before selecting Check Out.

VSys - Update Your Profiles

Make sure your personal and emergency contact information is up-to-date in VSys!

After logging in, select Edit My Profile on the main page to update your information.

If you have a badge, make sure that your badge number and its expiration date are accurate as well!

***Your badge number is on the back of the badge in the bottom right corner. It is the 8-digit code on the far right.**

VSys - Retake Your Trainings

You can also see if you're up-to-date on your SI trainings in VSys!

On the main page, select My Info. On the next page, scroll all the way to the bottom to see your certifications. **If your role requires you to take any of the trainings below**, make sure your certifications are still valid:

Information Security Awareness Training (ISAT) - annual requirement

Protection of Minors Training - annual requirement

EEO: Prevention of Workplace Harassment Training - requirement every 3 years

All three trainings are available in VSys! Click on the Online Trainings tab and select the applicable training to complete it.

SI Civil - New Required Training!

The Office of Human Resources has announced a new training course required for the entire Smithsonian community, the **SI Civil Training for Employees and Affiliated Staff**.

The Smithsonian is committed to maintaining a work environment free from harassment and workplace violence.

This training is also available in VSys.

Thank you to those who have already completed it!

If you have questions about whether or not you should take this training, please contact your volunteer supervisor.


30% Discount at Smithsonian Cafés & Restaurants

All Smithsonian museum cafés and restaurants will now offer a **30% staff discount** on all food and beverage purchases.

The Smithsonian recognizes the commitment of all SI employees and volunteers and remains dedicated to enhancing the benefits of culinary offerings at the Smithsonian restaurant locations.

This change is effective 1/2/2025.

***Smithsonian ID Badge required at time of purchase to receive discount.**



2025

Things to look forward to this year!

2025 Smithsonian Volunteer Appreciation Event

More information to come! Planning is underway and we can't wait to celebrate you and all of your accomplishments!

2025 Folklife Festival

Looking Forward: Youth and the Future of Culture
July 2-7, 2025

About 52% of the world's population is under 30, the highest in recorded history. Young people around the globe are working across generations and communities to understand and shape the world they will inherit. At the 2025 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, *Looking Forward* highlights their stories, creativity, and aspirations.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Giant Pandas

National Zoo: Public Debut 1/24/2025 - Ongoing

*Entry Passes Required

We Gather at the Edge: Contemporary Quilts by Black Women Artists

Renwick Gallery: 2/21/2025 - 6/22/2025

Delighting Krishna: Paintings of the Child-God

Asian Art Museum - Sackler Gallery: 3/15/2025 - 8/24/2025

Adam Pendleton: Love, Queen

Hirshhorn Museum: 4/4/2025-1/3/2027

The Outwin 2025: American Portraiture Today

National Portrait Gallery: 5/3/2025-3/1/2026

Barron Hilton Pioneers of Flight

Air and Space Museum: Anticipated to Open in 2025 - Indefinitely

Boeing Milestones of Flight Hall

Air and Space Museum: Anticipated to Open in 2025 - Indefinitely

Climate Change: Holt Innovations Gallery

Air and Space Museum: Anticipated to Open in 2025 - Ongoing

Amy Sherald: American Sublime

National Portrait Gallery: 9/19/2025 - 2/22/2026

Water's Edge: The Art of Truman Lowe

American Indian Museum DC: 10/24/2025 - 1/2027

Nick Cave: Mammoth

Smithsonian American Art Museum: 11/21/2025 - 1/3/2027

Thank you for a great 2024!



OFFICE OF VISITOR SERVICES
& VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Smithsonian