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Oberlin Heritage Center Offers Docent Training Workshop

The Oberlin Heritage Center will offer a training workshop for volunteers interested in becoming docents for its historic sites tours and special events. The session will be held on Saturday, October 7 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Oberlin Heritage Center starting at the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street, at the back of Oberlin College Conservatory's parking lot). Parking is available in the Heritage Center's parking lot accessed off of 20 West Vine Street (behind Midas Muffler).

The introductory workshop to the "Upstairs/Downstairs" tour includes the Heritage Center's three beautifully preserved on-site buildings, the Monroe House (1866), the Little Red Schoolhouse (1836) and the Jewett House (1884). Docent volunteers receive an overview of Oberlin history from the community and college's founding in 1833 through the next 100 years, covering a number of themes and events. Into this background are woven introductions to the people who once lived and worked in the historic buildings featured in the Oberlin Heritage Center tour.

The trained docents will be asked to make a commitment of helping with at least four tours or open house events per year as part of the Oberlin Heritage Center's volunteer program.

The docent-training workshop is free and open to the public. Current and past docents are welcome to join new volunteers to update their knowledge of the museums' collections and sharpen tour skills. Prospective docents should take part in a guided tour of the Oberlin Heritage Center prior to signing up for the workshop; talk with Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan to receive a complimentary tour ticket to observe a tour to see what being a docent is all about. Enrollment in the docent training workshop is limited, and advance registration is requested by September 30. For more information, or to reserve your place at the workshop, please call Amanda Manahan at the Oberlin Heritage Center office at 440/774-1700 or send her an e-mail at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

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