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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 (full tour or special room guides) for its historic sites tours and special events. The training will be held on Sunday, September 20, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Oberlin Heritage Center main office, located within the James Monroe House at 73½ South Professor Street in Oberlin. Parking is available in the Heritage Center's parking lot accessed off of 20 West Vine Street (*google this address for a map to the Heritage Center's parking lot, located behind Midas Muffler*).

Training will include an overview of Oberlin history from the community's founding through the early twentieth century. Into this background will be woven stories of the people who once lived and worked in the historic buildings featured in the Oberlin Heritage Center tour. The Heritage Center includes the James Monroe House (1866), the Little Red Schoolhouse (1836) and the Jewett House (1884).

The trained docents will be asked to make a commitment of helping with at least four tours per year as part of the Oberlin Heritage Center's volunteer program. In addition to assisting with tours, docents meet periodically as a group to discuss topics relevant to their work, such as successful tour techniques, new acquisitions to the collections, and special updates from the Oberlin Heritage Center. Docents also enjoy an annual field trip together to another historic site.

The docent-training workshop is free and open to the public but requires pre-registration. Current and past docents are welcome to join new volunteers in updating their knowledge of the museums' collections and sharpening tour skills. New prospective docents must take a tour of the Oberlin Heritage Center and meet with the Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Elizabeth Schultz prior to signing up for the workshop. Enrollment is limited for the workshop, and advance registration is required by September 16. For more information, or to reserve your place at the workshop, please call Liz Schultz at the Oberlin Heritage Center office at 440/774-1700 or send her an e-mail at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

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