

about the bakken museum

One Saturday afternoon in the early 1930s, a young Earl Bakken saw the film *Frankenstein*. Dr. Frankenstein's electricity not only sparked the creature to life, it sparked Bakken's interest in combining electricity and medicine. Bakken's passion for science, tempered by his pastor's admonition to use science to help others, led to his life work using electricity to benefit humanity.

Bakken grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota and received his electrical engineering degree from the University of Minnesota. He cofounded Medtronic in 1949. In 1957, Bakken developed the first wearable, battery-powered, transistorized cardiac pacemaker. In 1969, he began collecting "old electrical machines" and five years later created the only museum and library devoted to electricity and magnetism in the life sciences and medicine. The collection was housed at Medtronic until 1976 when it moved to its current home at the beautiful *West Winds* mansion on the west shore of Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis.

Today, The Bakken Museum's world-renowned collection consists of 11,000 books and 2,000 scientific instruments. Among its treasures are a 13th-century encyclopedia, Ben Franklin's glass armonica and a first edition of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.



Earl Bakken with one of his greatest inventions—the first wearable, battery-powered, transistorized cardiac pacemaker.



Attn: Volunteer Department
The Bakken Museum
3537 Zenith Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55416-4623

bakken museum volunteer opportunities



U.S. Postage
Required

volunteer at the bakken museum

Thank you for considering volunteering at The Bakken Museum. The museum inspires discovery and creativity in thousands of people each year. This could not be done without the support of numerous volunteers who generously provide their time and resources.

The Bakken Museum offers volunteer opportunities for people of all ages, with or without a science background. The museum provides flexible scheduling (days, evenings, weekends), a friendly staff and an excellent working environment.

Volunteer Benefits

- One complimentary Bakken Museum individual membership including free museum admission.*
- Free or reduced price general admission to nearly 300 participating Association of Science-Technology Center (ASTC) Travel Passport program participants in the U.S. and abroad.**
- Invitation to a Behind-the-Scenes tour.
- Invitations and free admission for you and a guest to special events such as *Bakken Evening Out*, *10 Best Days of The Bakken*, exhibit openings and more.
- Discounts on kids' educational programs (*Inventors' Club*, *LEGO Robotics Team*, *Summer Science Day Camp*).
- Discounts on purchases in the Museum Store.
- Free subscription to quarterly *Bakken Current* newsletter and monthly *Bakken Electric* e-newsletter.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Special Event Assistant - Assist in the set-up and coordination of activities in the *Super Science Saturday Lab*, at monthly *Bakken Evening Out* events and *10 Best Days of The Bakken* festival.
- Museum Tour Guide - Provide guided tours of the museum's exhibits for students, families and adult groups.
- Invention Programs Mentor - Mentor students as they dream up and create their own inventions in The Bakken's workshop.
- Gallery Specialist - Engage visitors in exploring the museum's hands-on exhibits by providing historical perspectives and demonstrating activities designed to enhance the experience.

*Volunteers must meet commitment requirements to receive and maintain membership status.

**Admission subject to ASTC Travel Passport program guidelines.

bakken volunteer application

Applicant Information:

First and Last Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Birth Date: Month and Date _____ Year (if under 18) _____

How did you hear about volunteer opportunities at The Bakken Museum? _____

Employer/School Information:

Employer/School Name _____

Skills/Interests:

Previous Volunteer Experience _____

Special Skills/Interests _____

Please check the type(s) of volunteer work you are interested in doing (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Projects Assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Tour Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor Service Assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention Programs Mentor | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gallery Specialist | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Availability:

Dates and Times _____

Applicants Under Age 18 (Parent/Guardian, Please Complete):

- I understand that youth under the age of 16 must volunteer with a parent, guardian or other adult with written consent from the parent or guardian, who has completed the volunteer application process. The Bakken Museum may determine that it is permissible for the youth to volunteer without a chaperone after a period of time to be determined. This decision will be made at the sole discretion of The Bakken Museum and with written permission from the parent or guardian.

First and Last Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Background Check:

- I authorize The Bakken to retrieve any and all information concerning my background, and release the same from any liability resulting in providing such information. The information received may include, but is not limited to, academic, residential, achievement, job performance, attendance, litigation, personal history, driving history, and criminal history records.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail or fax this form to:

Attn: Volunteer Department • The Bakken Museum • 3537 Zenith Avenue South • Minneapolis, MN 55416

Fax: 612-927-7265