

## Hillwood Volunteer Program

Please enjoy reading this month's volunteer newsletter featuring news and updates from the Hillwood staff.

## JANUARY 2025 SCHEDULE

The January 2025 schedule is now open to all interpretation volunteers in Volgistics, complete with private tours and special events. Please log in to your [Volgistics account](#) to schedule your shifts. If you have any changes or questions regarding the volunteer schedule, please continue to contact [volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org](mailto:volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org). Thank you.

[Log into Volgistics](#)

## HOLIDAY WISHES

As we embrace the excitement of the holiday season and reflect on the year gone by, we are filled with gratitude for the extraordinary contributions of Hillwood's volunteers in 2024. This year, we welcomed new garden docent, horticulture volunteer & VSV cohorts, revealed the beautiful new volunteer lounge in the Butler's House, and witnessed all our volunteers continue to surpass expectations in every role. Your generosity of time, energy, and care has made a lasting impact on Hillwood, and we cannot thank you enough. Whether in the gardens, mansion, visitor center, or throughout our campus, your dedication is the heartbeat of Hillwood, ensuring we provide an unforgettable experience for all who visit.

We send you our heartfelt wishes for a joyful and fulfilling holiday season. We can't wait to embark on the exciting opportunities and milestones awaiting Hillwood in 2025, with you by our side!

## HILLWOOD'S HOURS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

### Holiday Hours in December

Hillwood will adjust its hours and close early to the public at 3 p.m. on:

- Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)
- Tuesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

Hillwood will close to the public on Wednesday, December 25. Following this holiday closure, the museum will re-open Thursday, December 26 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

### Mark Your Calendars: January 2025 Closure

In January, Hillwood will be open to the public from Wednesday, January 1 through Sunday, January 5. The museum will close to the public from Monday, January 6 until Friday, January 31 for a deep-clean of the mansion and to update our exhibition spaces. Hillwood will re-open to the public on Saturday, February 1.

## HILLWOOD UPDATES

### New Suggested Donation Adult Pricing Beginning April 2025

The past few years have been a time of immense growth for Hillwood, and as we conducted research this year related to the strategic planning process, we determined that it is time to increase the suggested donation. Beginning in April 2025, we plan to change the adult suggested donation price from \$18 to \$20, though, of course, guests will still be allowed to pay whatever makes them comfortable to prohibit any barriers to visiting.

Hillwood's suggested donation pricing has not changed since 2015, despite the cost of operating steadily increasing. As we work to ensure Hillwood is a place that is welcoming for everyone, this higher price will help to maintain financial stability while also subsidizing visits for those who cannot afford to pay the full donation.

As we move close to the launch date, Hillwood will share talking points and a communications plan with both volunteers and staff.

### Museums for All

We are very excited to announce that Hillwood is now a member of the [Museums for All](#) program! Museums for All is a signature access program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and administered by the Association of Children's Museums (ACM) to encourage people of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum-going habits. As part of this program, we are pleased to offer free general admission to individuals and families presenting a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. If you want to learn more about Museums for All or our free general admission offerings, please contact Head of Visitor Experience Meredith DeSantis at [mdesantis@hillwoodmuseum.org](mailto:mdesantis@hillwoodmuseum.org).

## MANSION UPDATES

### Conservation Flooring Installed in Pavilion

On November 18, 2024, a floor covering by the UK-based company Eyemats was installed in the pavilion to replace the previous T-shaped runner. This installation completed a new phase of Hillwood's floor covering enhancement project that began last year with the Russian porcelain room. [Please read this article from Deputy Director and Chief Curator Wilfried Zeisler for more information about the Eyemats in the pavilion and history of the original floor, as well as Hillwood's goals and plans for other conservation efforts for the mansion floors.](#)



*The new conservation flooring manufactured by Eyemats was installed on November 18.*

### Sneak Peak: Staff Dining Room and Pantry Refresh

Next year, Hillwood will refresh the displays and interpretation in the pantry and staff dining room. This initiative provides an exciting opportunity to enhance the pantry space with more objects from storage and to further explore the relationship between Marjorie Merriweather Post and her staff in the staff dining room. The project will be completed in two successive phases: first the pantry in 2025 in the first quarter of the year, with the staff dining room scheduled for later in the year in late summer or early fall. [Click here for a preview about these plans from Wilfried Zeisler.](#)



*The pantry, pictured here, and staff dining room will be refreshed with new objects and interpretation in 2025.*

### Holidays at Hillwood

We hope you all are enjoying [Hillwood's 'Tis the Sea-son holiday program](#) while volunteering or visiting! To catch up on the volunteer resources related to the holiday display, including mansion changes, please click the links below for more information:

- [Mansion Display Update & Holiday Display Information](#)
- [November 2024 Garden Update](#)

## GARDEN UPDATE

There are multiple steps to putting the grounds to bed for the end of the year. Horticulture staff are focused on finishing fall garden tasks, closing down the water features, storing furniture, and getting ready for any snow. Thank you to all our horticulture volunteers for a great 2024. [Click here to learn more in an article on winter preparation by Jessica Bonilla, director of horticulture.](#)



*Winter is coming.*

## VOLUNTEER DECEMBER DISCOUNTS

### Membership Discount

Once again, we're delighted to offer our dedicated volunteers a 25% discount on memberships ranging from Individual to Donor levels throughout December. This offer is exclusively for new memberships, upgrades, or gift memberships for your loved ones.

To take advantage of this offer, please complete the [membership form](#) and return by December 31. If you need help, please don't hesitate to call our Hillwood Membership line at 202.243.3939 or follow the mailing instructions on the form. Please also feel free to contact Membership Manager Rebecca Raia at [rriaia@hillwoodmuseum.org](mailto:rriaia@hillwoodmuseum.org) with any questions or for additional information.

### Museum Shop Discount

It's time to show our volunteers some love with a special holiday discount of 30% off non-clearance items. This offer is valid until Wednesday, December 18, in store or online. Come visit us in person or [shop conveniently from your own home](#), with shipping or in-store pickup available. Don't miss out on this special discount!

## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming volunteer educational sessions:

### Volunteer Tour: Holiday Display

**December 11, 12, 13 (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.**

Get an intimate look at Hillwood's holiday decor on this tour of the mansion and grounds hosted by Director of Horticulture Jessica Bonilla or Floral and Event Décor Designer Ami Wilber. Tours are limited to 15 volunteers and depart from the horticulture breakroom. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [December 11 Volunteer Holiday Display Tour](#)
- [December 12 Volunteer Holiday Display Tour](#)
- [December 13 Volunteer Holiday Display Tour](#)

### Volunteer Holiday Wreath Workshop

**December 11 & 12 (Wednesday & Thursday), 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.**

Be inspired and create your own unique holiday wreath of wintery greens under the guidance of Gardener Matt Boyle. Space is limited to 16 volunteers per workshop. The workshop takes place in the Dina Merrill Pavilion. The cost is \$35. Please use the links below to sign up for a workshop:

- [December 11 Volunteer Holiday Wreath Workshop](#)
- [December 12 Volunteer Holiday Wreath Workshop](#)

### Volunteer Business Meeting

**January 29, 2025 (Wednesday), 10 a.m.**

Join us for Hillwood's annual Volunteer Business Meeting, offered virtually via Zoom, on Wednesday, January 29 at 10 a.m. Volunteers will have the opportunity to hear from Hillwood's senior management team to learn more about Hillwood's strategic plan, important updates, and major projects for the year ahead. Time will also be dedicated to answering volunteer questions submitted via Zoom's Q&A feature. The meeting is scheduled to run for about 1 hour and 20 minutes. All volunteers are encouraged to attend, and no advance registration is needed. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed closer to the program date. The business meeting will be recorded and the video link shared with volunteers via email.

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM RECORDINGS

Don't miss out on our robust lineup of volunteer lectures and programs of 2024! If you were unable to attend a virtual volunteer program, check out our [2024 Lecture Videos Page](#) to catch up with the recordings. Please note that the 2024 Lecture Videos page on the volunteer website now has a link to [Hillwood's YouTube Library](#). In lieu of adding duplicate videos to the volunteer website, we hope you enjoy watching public programs, such as lectures and workshops, on Hillwood's YouTube channel.

## STAFF HELP & RESOURCES

Thank you for being a part of the Hillwood community! Our doors are always open. Feel free to reach us at [volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org](mailto:volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org).

-The Volunteer Support Team

Jordan Hansen, Lisa Leyh, Drew Asbury, and Samantha Hernandez

### PLAN YOUR VISIT

Learn more about Hillwood's current visitor offerings, book an upcoming visit, and stay up-to-date on Hillwood's events and programs.

[Visit >](#)

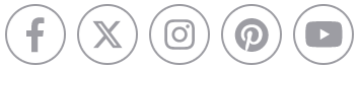
### STAY CONNECTED

Visit the volunteer website for an archive of past monthly volunteer newsletters and catch up on any reading you may have missed.

[Connect >](#)

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