



Texas Association of Museums 1108
Lavaca Street - Suite 110 - #626 Austin,
Texas 78701
admin@texasmuseums.org

Relic Wrangler Site Application

If you are considering hosting a project for the Relic Wranglers Day of Service, we encourage you to reach out before applying. Please contact the Relic Wrangler Coordinator, Aubrey Nielsen, at anielsen@brownsvillehistory.org or (956) 548-1313 with any questions.

What is the Relic Wranglers?

The Relic Wranglers Day of Service is an initiative of the Texas Association of Museums (TAM) Collections Managers Committee Affinity Group (CMC) that takes place on the Sunday before the Annual Conference. This program provides museum professionals with an opportunity to give back by assisting museums in host communities that need additional support. Participating volunteers help these institutions complete collections-related projects that they might not otherwise have the resources to carry out.

When will the 2026 Relic Wranglers gathering be held?

The Relic Wranglers Day of Service will occur on Sunday, April 19, 2026 (9 am-4 pm). The 2026 annual conference will be centered at the McAllen Convention Center, with evening events and programs hosted at cultural institutions throughout McAllen and the greater Rio Grande Valley.

Who can submit a project proposal?

Museums, historical sites and societies, art centers, nature centers, halls of fame, libraries, and archives are eligible to participate. **Preference will be given to organizations that are members of the Texas Association of Museums (TAM), though all qualifying institutions are welcome to submit a project proposal.**

What kinds of project proposals are welcome [or eligible]?

The Relic Wranglers Day of Service was created to provide museums with support on hands-on collections care projects that they may not have the resources to complete on their own. Projects can include tasks such as rehousing, cleaning, rolling, bagging, boxing, cataloging, shelving, padding, dusting, numbering, polishing, inventorying, and photographing objects.



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The program is overseen by the Texas Association of Museums Collections Managers Affinity Group Officers, which reviews all project proposals to ensure that staffing, materials, and project scope are appropriate.

***Please note that conservation or appraisal work is not eligible.**

Who provides supplies to complete the project?

Whenever possible, necessary supplies such as boxes, acid-free covers, gloves, and other materials may be supported through the generosity of vendors and sponsors. In some cases, host museums may need to provide certain items to complete their projects. Proposed projects will be reviewed and supported based on the availability of volunteers, materials, and funding, ensuring that each project is both feasible and well-planned.

Who are the volunteers?

Volunteers for the Relic Wranglers Day of Service include members of the Texas Association of Museums (TAM) and its affinity groups, museum professionals, vendors, consultants, and retirees with experience in collections care. To ensure the highest level of professional care, volunteers will be provided with instruction on their tasks and will not make decisions or recommendations regarding the collections. The Relic Wrangler Coordinator and the TAM Collections Managers Officers are responsible for securing an appropriate number of volunteers for each project. All volunteers are required to submit an application providing their professional background and relevant experience.



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Site Application

**Applications are due December 31, 2025 to Aubrey Nielsen at
anielsen@brownsvillehistory.org**

Site Name: _____

Site Contact Name: _____

Site Contact Email: _____

Site Physical Location: _____

Site Contact Phone Number: _____

1. What project would you like the Relic Wranglers to help with? If you are deciding between multiple potential projects, please list them in order of preference. Please provide as much detail as possible.

2. How many volunteers do you estimate you will need on the day of service?

3. How many of your site's staff/ volunteers may participate?

4. Is someone on your staff (whether employed or volunteer) who:
 - Is familiar with the part of the collection you are requesting help with? Y or N
 - Is experience with object handling, registration, digitizing, etc? Y or N



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5. Do you already have/ will you have the necessary supplies/ materials to complete the proposed project by the date of service? If not, what supplies will you need?

6. Does your site have adequate seating, outlets, laptops, lighting, and other equipment needed based on the proposed project? If not, please explain

7. Please share any other important information about your potential project and participation that we should know.

Site Logistics

1. Can your site accommodate the volunteers from 9 am- 4 pm? If not, please provide a time frame. Y or N
2. Is your site accessible by public transportation? Y or N
3. Is your site accessible by car?
4. Is parking available? Y or N
5. Do you have an adequate work space for multiple volunteers? Y or N
6. Is the project indoors or outdoors (weather permitting)? Please describe the setting in detail.
7. Is your site physically accessible? Y or N
8. Site hosts are encouraged to provide lunch for volunteers. Is this feasible? Y or N