

Tanya Attarwala
143 Arthurdale Drive
West Columbia, SC 29170
September 13, 2016

Ms. Nikki Haley
Honorable Governor
State of South Carolina

Subject: Volunteer program at State Museum
Reference: Please refer to the attached letters

Dear Ms. Nikki Haley,

Good Morning!

I am an immigrant from India. I am volunteering in the South Carolina State Museum, Columbia, SC since more than three years. I have seen volunteers and staff change during these three years. The issue I am raising here is not about just my child, or about me. But it is about any child and any women who wants to volunteer a the State Museum.

SC State Museum tries hard to attract children to the facility. My daughter loves History. History is her favorite subject. Part of my decision to keep volunteering was because of her. I wanted her to keep her interest alive. She is 11 years old and pretty independent & responsible by nature. She had also written a letter to you about her wish to meet you and you had even replied her back! I used to take her only at times when I did not have anyone to look after her at my home. When I had to volunteer in the evenings after 6pm or later or at events where lot of children were involved like Fall festival or Halloween and that was allowed as per the attached letter from the Volunteer Scheduler.

Because this is not a paid assignment and Museum is about entertaining people of all age groups it is unfair that Mr. Jeff Powley has raised this issue.(please see his letter). Also he has assumed that I had brought my child and her friend (actually a Foreign Exchange Student from Thailand who is here for one school year studying in White Knoll High. I am the Host Parent) to watch a show for free! I was not posted at the Planetarium so it was no way I could sneak them in for free! Plus we had thought that they will buy show tickets and watch the show while I volunteer. And the show was sold out so they both could not go to watch it. Later a gentleman gave lawa one ticket to the show as he did not intend to see it. He made my day and hers by being nice to a stanger in this land!

As a host Parent, its my duty to show her places of interest in South Carolina and that was one more reason why I had brought her to the Musuem.

Instead of telling Volunteers not to bring their children who are old enough to look after themselves (say 8/9 years old and above), why can't Museum have a small room with toys , books, creative games, creative activities to keep them involved while their parents volunteer?

On the day Mr. Jeff is referring to my daughter's friend, actually Iwa (the foreign student) is 17 years old, old enough to take care of herself & my child. (she flew from Thailand by herself!) and she and my daughter were in common areas where any visitor can enter and don't have to pay any charge. I am really surprised at the indifference shown by the Volunteer Scheduler Ms. Pam Borawski to the foreign student! She didn't talk to her but just made assumptions! Mr. Jeff was not present that day so she might have given updates to him. I want to ask, "this is how we welcome people from another Country to South Carolina?" And let me add here, that her husband was with her (I don't know if he is registered as Volunteer with SC Museum or not) along with her son around 16 who was in the Volunteer office and using the office computer. Why I should have to follow different rules? Why her son is allowed to sit in the office on her Mom's chair and use the office computer while my daughter and student though being in outside area asked not to be there? Being a State Entity should not the employees of State Museum have better outlook to the people whom they serve or interact with? Its time to think outside the box. Women with children should not be at a disadvantaged position just because they are Moms and laws should be applied fairly to all. Whether a white person, a colored person or an immigrant who looks different! State Museum has very marginal representation of volunteers of color. Its good if people of all race and religion join hands to make up our State rather than chosen few! I wanted to share my story to help others and you being the head of State, you should know it.

Thanks a lot Governor for your service. You have made Indians proud!

Yours

Tanya Attarwala



Encl: 1) Email of Volunteer scheduler
2) letter by volunteer coordinator
3) my reply to the volunteer Co-ordinator.



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Yahoo (2491)
famqt (4350)

Art Day this Saturday the 5th (4)

People Yahoo

Borawski, Pam <Pam.Borawski@scmuseum.org>

Mar 2 at 1:31 PM

Hi!

I was just told today that we need volunteers to help with arts and crafts in the main lobby THIS Saturday for the special event ART DAY. I'm looking to fill the following times:

10-1pm (3 Slots)
1pm-4pm (3 Slots)

This would be a sit-down activity, and Tanya you are welcome to bring your daughter along!

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are able to help staff this, thank you.

Pam Borawski, Volunteer Scheduler
South Carolina State Museum
803-898-4951

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Tanya Attarwala Thanks i will be there...from 1 pm to 4pm! Its on Sa

Mar 2 at 2:18 PM

Borawski, Pam <Pam.Borawski@scmuseum.org>

Mar 2 at 2:28 PM

To Tanya Attarwala

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Yes, this Saturday the 5th. Thank you!

Pam Borawski, Volunteer Scheduler
South Carolina State Museum
803-898-4951

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Tanya Attarwala <tanyaattarwala@yahoo.com>

Mar 2 at 2:33 PM

To Borawski, Pam

Most Welcome!

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Tanya Attarwalla
143 Arthurdale Drive
W. Columbia, SC 29170

September 17, 2016

Dear Tanya:

Our main goal as volunteers and staff is to provide excellent, attentive guest service to our museum guests. If we are supervising our children, we cannot provide this level of service to our guests.

Although your daughter and her friends are welcome to visit the museum with you when you are not volunteering, please do not bring them when you have a volunteer assignment. Having to divide your attention between your child and our guests is not fair to the child or to the guests. Also, please note that your daughter as well as any of your guests must pay general admission and additional fees for the attractions when they come to the museum.

Although I hope you will continue to volunteer, the volunteer program will not be able to accommodate your daughter and friends during any volunteer activity including luncheons, trips or programs designed for volunteers.

Sincerely



Jeff Powley

Volunteer Manager

Tanya Attarwala
143 Arthurdale Drive
West Columbia, SC 29170

To
Mr. Jeff Powley
Volunteer Manager
SCSM Musuem, 301, Gervais Street
Columbia, SC,

Subject: Explanation to the letter you have sent me on September 7, 2016

Dear Mr. Jeff,

I am attaching herewith an email conversation I had with Ms. Pam on March 2016. As per this conversation, she had told me that I can come with my daughter to volunteer. The last time when I had come with my daughter (11) and a foreign exchange student Lawa (17), they were supposed to see the planetarium show by buying tickets. The show was sold out. My intention was that they will watch the show and I will volunteer. Lawa is new here and I have sponsored her for one school year. . She is from Thailand. When I had to volunteer, I thought of bringing her as she is new in SC and plus being old enough, she can take care of my daughter maliha while I am volunteering. They both did not disturb me or anyone else. Its not fair to assume that they wanted to see the show for free! While waiting outside on the bench where the food cart was, A visitor came and gave Lawa a ticket to watch the show as he was not able to wait. That ticket she used to see the show. We are so unfriendly that we cannot even see a foreign student have some fun while being in our City? And I saw Ms. Pam's son in the Volunteer room doing something on the computer and her husband also outside with her while Volunteering. I just don't want a State owned entity to have double standards! Because I look different, that should not make me entitled to different set of standards.

I have volunteered since more than three years. In these three years, I have not received an appreciation letter from you, but this letter!

The first two times, my daughter saw the musuem from inside, I had used the Volunteer passes I had got. Is it fair to make her pay each time she had come with me when she has already seen the musuem multiple times?

Have you ever thought about the gas money? The time? The energy Volunteers put in to make the Museum what it is? Vibrant and welcoming?

Females, specially with minor children have to think about the safety of the children first. I cannot leave my daughter alone and Volunteer at the Musuem. So please count me out. But I would expect an answer to my questions and changes made to the policy so that another woman does not face same treatment like me!

Thank you

Tanya