



INTERPRETER APPRENTICE

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY

The summer Youth Interpreter Apprentice program is dedicated to enriching and motivating young minds in a way that is unique. The program aims to impart knowledge about Maryland's history and the 17th century to students. Moreover, they will get valuable opportunities to refine their communication skills by interacting with the public as living history interpreters at one of three outdoor living history sites, namely Maryland Dove, the Woodland Indian Hamlet, or the Town Center. The program is an excellent opportunity for selected students to play a vital role in elevating the overall quality of Historic St. Mary's City as a museum. Students will need to commit two days per week, with three to four hours each day, for the summer program.

YOUTH INTERPRETER APPRENTICE INFORMATION



WHAT IS A YOUTH INTERPRETER APPRENTICE?

A Youth Interpreter Apprentice is an opportunity:

- for school children to get an enriching experience of learning how to interpret, or teach the public.
- be part of the preservation of historic skills
- to experience a taste of how the museum profession works.

Interpreter Apprentices will:

- participate in the program for one museum season (June - August).
- interpret in costume the various aspects of life for those that lived here hundreds (and in some cases, thousands) of years ago.
- participate in and conduct tours, demonstrations, and daily period tasks.
- learn the history of early Maryland.
- learn how to interpret to the public.
- learn the value of having a proper uniform or period costume.
- keep a weekly journal of activities and opinions about their time at HSMC.

YOUTH INTERPRETER APPRENTICE



Applicants must be between the ages of ten and seventeen.

Please submit an application package by Friday, May 19, 2023.

- a 250-word (minimum) essay on why they want to take part in the program.
- Completed Application Form.

REQUIREMENTS

Participant must:

- be available for a minimum of two days a week, three to four hours a day (negotiable).
- work at least one weekday (Wednesday – Friday).
- be able to participate in the program for one summer season (June through August).
- be able to assist in completing his/her 17th-century costume (stitchwork, patching, etc). *If stationed at the Woodland Indian Hamlet, the participant will be supplied with an HSMC polo shirt.*
- be able to perform physical labor including working with tools, carrying water, etc.
- be willing to meet the expectations outlined in the position description (attached).
- pay the \$100 registration fee by the start of the season/program.
 - *This fee offsets the cost of the period clothing and polo shirts.*

Fees are non-refundable.

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Training

Training is ongoing and, as with everyone who works at Historic St. Mary's City, there is always something new to learn! Training prepares participants to be interpreters at HSMC.

- Each participant will have a staff person assigned to guide him/her toward constructive improvement and fulfillment of the position.
- Training will involve tour presentations, homework, and on-the-job learning which will include using 17th-century tools and performing 17th-century tasks, including, but not limited to weed pulling, sewing, and simple woodworking.
- The candidate will receive a training manual and on-the-job training will include how to interact with the public, especially children and families.

Costumes/Uniforms

- It is important that participants understand the value of a historically correct costume and/or uniform as an interpretive tool
- One of the requirements for the program will be that each participant will assist with the construction of his/her own 17th-century costume. The participant will need to supply their own pair of generic black and comfortable shoes.
- If in uniform (at the Woodland Indian Hamlet), HSMC will supply the polo shirt for the participant. Under the guidance of exhibit staff, the participant will wear clothes that are HSMC standard (i.e. khaki pants or shorts).

Required Activities

- Worksheet
 - At the end of the training, each participant must be able to successfully complete a "What I know, What I think I know, and What I need to know" worksheet.
 - This worksheet includes questions designed to measure the understanding of the historical content and information used at the museum.
- Journal
 - The journal or log book will outline students' experiences, activities, feelings, and reactions to the program.
- Performance
 - One performance evaluation will be completed for each participant and will take place near the end of the program.
 - The evaluation is designed to encourage personal growth and will include constructive suggestions for improvement.
 - The evaluation will measure the participant's ability to meet the duties and responsibilities outlined in the position description.

YOUTH INTERPRETER APPRENTICE INFORMATION



APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should fill out the online application.

Interviews

- After reviewing the Interpreter Apprentice applications, selected applicants will be invited for an interview. Applicants will be contacted to schedule a time and place for the interview.

The interview will consist of:

- The applicant, parents, and supervisors will discuss time commitment, availability, and expectations of the program for interviewee and interviewers.
- Parents will be excused for the second part of the interview. The applicants will be interviewed and asked several questions to determine their poise, maturity, communication skills, and attitude toward the program.
- At the interview, applicants will need to bring a letter of reference from a non-relative. The letter does not need to be submitted with the application but should be brought to the interview. Applicants can download the reference form from the museum's website.

Notification of Acceptance

- Notification of acceptance or rejection will be made within two weeks of the interview.
- Please send applications to Aaron Meisinger

email: aaron.meisinger@maryland.gov
or regular mail: HSMC c/o Aaron Meisinger
PO Box 39
St. Mary's City, MD 20686