

Living History Farms Job Description

Position Title: Seasonal Interpreter Associate— Walnut Hill Trades

Reports to: Walnut Hill Trades Supervisor

Status: Seasonal Hourly (Non-exempt) April – October

Classification: Associate

Job Summary: Interprets daily life and culture of a 19th century trades shop, including leading historical hands-on activities, to museum patrons in a primarily outdoor environment. Engages general public on a daily basis and provides excellent customer service. Historic site assignment may include a combination of the Walnut Hill historic trade sites, including broom making, blacksmithing, printing, textile work, or demonstrating farm machinery.

Position Responsibilities:

- Provides excellent customer service to museum patrons, whenever interacting with the public.
- Demonstrates and interprets daily historic activities (may include use of period machinery broom-making or printing equipment, blacksmithing equipment etc. and agricultural tools—from hand tools to 19th century equipment) for school tours, day camp groups, adult tour groups and the general public.
- Assigned to wear reproduction period clothing provided by the museum while working at the historical site.
- Conducts hands-on education programs for LHF Day Camps, children's enrichments and adult education classes, as assigned.
- Encourages general visitors, especially children, to participate in interactive activities, including the scheduled hands-on activities.
- Maintains and monitors strict museum safety guidelines for site, especially around equipment, chemicals, fire and other processes.
- Works with Trades Supervisor to achieve site goals and interpretive themes. May be responsible for guiding activities of staff (including college interns and volunteers).
- Assists with routine site maintenance and cleaning, daily machinery upkeep, may include gardening or livestock chores.
- Studies and understands historical resource materials and other information provided.
- Cross-trained to interpret at several sites, as assigned.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: Interest in history, education, American studies or related field. Previous living history museum experience preferred. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills required. Must be able to master historical information and techniques. Mechanical aptitude and dexterity to work with machinery and equipment. Must possess enthusiasm for working with the general public, exhibiting superior customer service skills. Must excel in working with groups of children. Previous experience working with volunteers preferred Ability to perform physical tasks needed to authentically re-create the activities of an historic shop, home, or trade required, including lifting 30 pounds. Work environment requires standing for long periods of time, working in non-climate controlled environment, subject to heat and humidity. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule, including weekend days. A criminal background check is required. Must be at least 18 years old by date of hire.

To apply: Send cover letter, resume and 3 professional references to jdennis@lhf.org

Background:

Living History Farms is an interactive outdoor museum which educates, entertains and connects people of all ages to Midwestern rural life experiences. It is a private, not-for-profit organization on 500 acres located in Urbandale,

Iowa. Historical interpreters dress in period clothing and recreate the daily life of early Iowans on three farm sites spanning the years 1700-1900 and an 1876 town. The general touring season begins May 1 – mid October. For more information, please visit <https://www.lhf.org/>.

2/4/2020