



Historical Interpreter Apprentice Program

2014 Packet

December 1, 2013

Greetings!

Andersonville National Historic Site is proud to offer an award-winning educational opportunity in 2014. The **Historical Interpreter Apprentice Program** (HIAP) is a great chance for high school students interested in history, teaching, public speaking, theater and community service to learn new skills and get strong work experience at a federal institution. This is also a huge year because it is the 150th anniversary of the prison site, and many new things will be occurring at the park.

Who is an “historical interpreter?”

An historical interpreter is a person who presents history to wide audiences, in a variety of formats. This can include professions like teachers, park rangers, museum guides, tour guides and actors. Historical interpreters might participate in such things as writing museum exhibits, leading tours, showing historical games or chores, creating brochures or performing as historical figures. They are, at heart, storytellers who can use their written words, their voices and their bodies to tell amazing stories that happen to be true. Even at a site about the Civil War, both young men AND women are needed to successfully tell our story.

What is an “historical interpreter apprentice?”

Beginning in January 2014, a small number of high school students will be chosen as the third class of apprentices at Andersonville NHS. The apprentice class will meet every Saturday morning from 9:00 am – 12:00 am at the park. These short sessions will explore different ways to view history and ultimately how to interpret it to an audience using your best skills. Sessions will include taking tours, exploring Andersonville, learning how to run a museum, guest speakers, field trips, lessons on historical activities and clothing, all while building skills to be used at the park’s Living History weekend in March. The final session will be the opportunity to act as roving interpreters at the park’s history event during the day and camp out with rangers and staff in Civil War tents on site in March. This is a rare and special opportunity we want to extend to students to give them more creative outlets for community service and work experience.

What is the commitment?

Apprentices are expected to participate in seven sessions from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm every Saturday from January 18 to March 1. The final session will be all-day events on Saturday, March 8 and Sunday, March 9. While apprentices are expected to attend every session, sickness or pre-arranged absences will be allowed. *If you know you have schedule conflicts please mark that on your application when you submit it to the park.*

We will work to be flexible in regards to school or sports events. This program is a privilege and should be treated as such.

Our sessions will traditionally end at 12:00 pm, but on specific Saturdays we may participate in up to two fieldtrips which will take us off site for the majority of the day. These trips will require some flexibility, but their benefits are extensive.

Mandatory attendance for the final event on March 8-9th is expected. The park's living history event is the culmination of all your hard work and training and will give you the opportunity to shine in front of a live audience.

Apprentices will be expected to read short articles or view websites as homework between Saturday sessions. These are not meant to be burdens or busy work but will better prepare apprentices to talk about historical interpretation together. Each week apprentices will receive their homework for the next week and other handouts during the day. They will receive a binder to keep all their information in, and at the end of the program will have an entire set of resources to access.

After the completion of the program, apprentices will be encouraged to come back when available to volunteer for special events. We want the returning group to act as mentors for the next generation of apprentices which gives everyone valuable experience.

When you become an apprentice you will be representatives of your school, your community and the National Park. Inappropriate or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Repeated warnings may lead to removal from the program.

What are the benefits?

- First-hand experience in working in a museum, national park and historic site, which will be valuable for future resumes or job applications.
- Practice in how to communicate information to an audience through fun and creative methods.
- Community service hours and upon completion of the program, recommendation letters from the park staff on your behalf.
- Behind-the-scenes access to the park.
- Free lesson materials and resources that you get to keep, and a few other fun things along the way.
- Opportunities to wear historical clothing and use historical props to tell your stories at the living history weekend.
- Rare opportunity to camp on site in historic tents.
- Access to park staff and resources.
- New experiences that you cannot gain in the classroom, and the chance to build skills that will help you in school and beyond.

What are the session topics?

- Week 1** – Site Introduction (January 18)
- Week 2** – Interpretation Introduction (January 25)
- Week 3** – Living History Introduction (February 1)
- Week 4** – Creating Characters (February 8)
- Week 5** – Historical Research (February 15)
- Week 6** – Costumes (February 22)
- Week 7** – Dress Rehearsal (March 1)
- Week 8** – Living History Weekend (March 8-9)

How do I apply?

Simple. First, read everything in this packet carefully. Fill out the application at the back of this packet and write your short essays. Staple everything together and hand-deliver or mail the packet to Andersonville National Historical Site museum before **5:00 pm on Friday, January 3rd.**

Park staff will review the applications and will select the apprentices. You will be notified by ***January 11th by email.*** After you receive the selection email, you will receive an acceptance packet in the mail. There will be forms to sign and some materials to get you started. Your first session will be Saturday, January 18th at 9:00 am.

Who do I contact with questions?

Stephanie Steinhorst
Park Ranger
Andersonville National Historic Site
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711

229-924-0343 x203
Stephanie_Steinhorst@nps.gov

The rangers at Andersonville are very excited about our new group of apprentices and we look forward to meeting you. We hope that you consider this program as a great way to get important skills for the future and have fun while learning.

Best wishes,

The Andersonville Staff