

Living History Farms Job Description

Position Title: Seasonal Interpreter Associate—Agriculture Focus

Reports to: Historic Farm Manager

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

Classification: Associate

Job Summary: Interpretive position focused on daily hands-on activities and agricultural demonstrations at the working farms sites. Duties will include interacting with museum guests, providing excellent public programming and customer service, supporting the working farm site supervisors with chores and site upkeep, as well as guiding activities of other seasonal staff on supervisor's days off. Cross-training to other LHF historic sites, as assigned.

- Provides excellent customer service to museum patrons, whenever interacting with the public.
- Engages public in hands-on programming and interpretation as primary focus of daily work.
- Demonstrates and explains historic agricultural activities at the working farm sites to school tours, day camp groups, adult tour groups and the general public on a rotating site schedule.
- Conducts hands-on education programs for LHF Day Camps, children's enrichments and adult education classes, wagon rides and special event programming, as assigned.
- Demonstrates and actively encourages general visitors, especially children, to participate safely in interactive activities, including the scheduled hands-on activities
- Maintains and monitors strict safety guidelines for farm, ensuring safe practices by all site interpreters.
- May guide activities of assigned site and agricultural staff (including college interns and volunteers) on supervisor's days off.
- Assists with needed behind the scenes routine site maintenance and farm chores, including barnyard maintenance, field work and basic livestock care, as assigned.
- Effectively completes provided training to master skills, including proficiency in field work (with draft horses, oxen, and tractors), general livestock care, and use of period tools and machinery, cutting wood, morning and evening chores, etc.
- Studies and understands historical resource materials and other information provided; conducts research to enhance site knowledge and programs as directed.
- Cross-trained to interpret at other sites, as assigned.
- Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: College degree in history, agriculture, American studies or related field OR equivalent combination of education, experience or training--with previous experience in historical farming methods and living history interpretation. Previous experience with livestock (draft horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, etc.) plus the ability to successfully complete LHF's Oxen and Horse Driving Certification Programs. Ability to perform physical tasks (minimum strength requirement-50 pounds) needed to authentically re-create period farms with the ability to work successfully in an outdoor environment. Work environment requires standing for long periods of time, working in heat, and contact with livestock. Willing to learn historical information and demonstrate it to general visitors and school groups. Must have strong organizational skills with the ability to handle multiple tasks and assimilate detailed information quickly. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills required. Must excel in working with groups of children. Previous experience working with volunteer staff preferred. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule, including weekend days. Must complete a criminal background check.

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/>.

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