Lincoln’s New Salem State Historic Site

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How should I contact this agency? Email
How should students submit cover letters and resumes? Email

Description of Site
The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) operates over 60 historic sites and memorials from U.S. Grant’s home in Galena to the Kincaid Mounds near Unionville covering more than 10,000 years of Illinois History. Sites include the world-famous Dana-Thomas House, a Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece, Cahokia Mounds, a World Heritage Site, and Lincoln's New Salem, the highest attended site of all the Lincoln Sites. IHPA administers all state and federal historic preservation and incentive programs in Illinois, including the National Register of Historic Places. Besides physically caring for those traces of the state’s past, the Sites Division offers a wide variety of public programs that bring Illinois history to life and make it meaningful to more than 2.5 million annual visitors.

Internship or Job Description
The Site Interpreter is primarily an interpreter or guide, providing interpretive historical/cultural information to site visitors under direct supervision. Housing is available free of charge.

Duties Include:
- Servings as an interpreter or guide of the buildings and historical or cultural features of the site
- Explaining the significant historical aspects of the site to groups and individuals via tours, exhibits and demonstrations
- Conducting research into the history of the site, its people, and the social, economic and political influences of the historical period in which the site is maintained
- Conducting guided tours of the site and explains the significance of the site's historical aspects
- Wearing reproductions of historic costumes for first person and third person interpretation
- Constructing displays to exhibit artifacts from the site's past and assisting in setting up yearly special events

Basic Student Learning Anticipated
Upon completion of an internship at Lincoln’s New Salem interns will have learned valuable communication skills, the ability to interact with diverse populations, and operations of a historic site. Successful interns will leave New Salem with knowledge of developing and conducting nature walks, campfire programs, and tours to the general public. The knowledge gained by the student is only limited to how much the student is willing to learn.

Hours per week: 10-40
Number of weeks: 8-16
Position Available: Fall, Spring, Summer

Unpaid with housing provided January 24, 2011