Job Description

Position Title: Seasonal Program Associate—Agriculture & Livestock
Reports to: Co-Director of Programming (Interpretation)
Status: Seasonal, Hourly (Non-exempt) April – October

Job Summary:
Museum program position focused on daily hands-on activities and agricultural demonstrations at two historic farm sites, the 1850 Pioneer Farm and the 1900 Farm. This position provides excellent interactions and customer service daily with museum guests, providing excellent public programming and customer service, handling daily chores and livestock, site upkeep, as well as guiding activities.

Specific Duties:
• 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
• Practices strict safety guidelines in accordance with the site and livestock manuals.
• 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:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. Consistent attendance is an essential function of the position. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Supervisory Responsibilities
Volunteers and interns

Education & Skills:
- 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.

Position Hours

The museum is open from 9am-4pm, Tuesday – Saturday thru the end of August and then Thursdays – Saturdays in September and October. As such this position is staffed 8:45am – 4:15pm during museum hours for approximately 25-35 hours per week. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule, including weekend days.

To Apply:

- Please submit a cover letter and resume, and provide contact information for 3 references. This position will remain open until filled. Please email to Janet Dennis at jdennis@lhf.org. Must complete a criminal background check.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

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 privately run, not-for-profit organization on 500 acres located in Urbandale, Iowa. Historical interpreters recreate daily routines of early Iowans on three farm sites spanning the years 1700-1900 and an 1876 town. The season typically runs approximately
May 1 – October. For more information, visit https://www.lhf.org/. Living History Farms is among the elite three percent of national museums accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the only organization representing the entire scope of the museum community.

Last updated: May 17, 2021
(RCH/JCD)