

North House Folk School
June 2012
Draft Proposal: Assistant Instructors

North House recognizes the strong need to nurture the development of aspiring instructors and craftspeople in order to grow the future of folk education and ensure the sustainability of craft. We welcome the participation of assistant instructors in the classroom, under the guidance of established instructors. We understand that North House needs a flexible and creative model as we are adding a new piece to the puzzle.

Candidates

Assistant Instructors are identified by either an established “host” instructor or by North House. Interested parties should have a relevant background in the particular craft they will be instructing, as well as a strong interest in teaching. The presence of an assistant instructor during a course will always be at the prerogative of the host instructor.

Given the time-frame of North House coursework, we recognize that we are not offering an immersion-style apprenticeship in one craft area. Instead, we expect that Assistant Instructors will have a variety of experiences & exposures in other settings in their chosen craft, and will be particularly able to focus on the teaching process while at North House.

Engagement Process

Host instructors should notify NHFS of their intent to have an assistant instructor one month in advance. First-time assistant instructors must submit a letter of introduction to North House at least one month prior to a course beginning, which would include contact information, an overview of their qualifications and their purpose in becoming an assistant.

Stage 1:

First-time assistants new to North House. No tuition will be charged, though if the student will be completing a project using North House materials, a materials fee may apply. Assistants will observe, assist with set-up and clean-up duties, and participate in other ways to be determined by the host instructor.

Stage 2:

Assistants who are returning to North House for multiple sessions. These assistant instructors may utilize the instructor bunk house if space allows, and will receive a one-time 50% tuition discount (max of \$200) per year.

Stage 3:

Assistant instructors who have returned for 5+ sessions. These assistant instructors will receive nametags identifying them as assistant instructors, will receive a 50% discount on tuition (up to \$200/year) on an unlimited number of courses, and continue to have access to the bunkhouse.

Expectations & Evaluation

North House expects that assistant instructors will fully participate in the North House experience, attending the Student Welcome and any community gatherings held during the course. Assistant instructors are asked to introduce themselves to students and explain their role in the classroom for the weekend (just observing, participating, co-teaching, etc.)

Host Instructors are asked to fill out an evaluation of their assistant instructor (included in the course folder) and inform NH of any future plans to work together.

Compensation & Extended Roles

On occasion, the presence of a practiced assistant instructor allows a host instructor to comfortably teach additional students and thereby increase class size. When this happens, monetary compensation for the assistant is possible. A mutually agreeable formula will need to be worked out with NHFS, the host instructor and the assistant instructor. Host instructors will need to inform NHFS if an expanded class size is an option.

The goal of this program is to grow future instructors and to enhance course offerings. We fully anticipate and hope that this program will generate ideas for new coursework, expand the instructor community and facilitate the hand-off of core coursework when desired.

**** Feedback Requested****

1) Is this the right approach? Is this the right amount of support? Too much?

2) Have you participated in similar programs in other places? Are there ideas we should consider?

3) Out of curiosity, do you see yourself bringing an assistant with you to teach at some point?

Other comments welcome!