



Position Announcement

Craft Education Internship 2016: Public Outreach/Craft Immersion/Operations Support

North House Folk School, Grand Marais, MN

Updated: July 2015

Overview

North House Folk School is a dynamic, young, educational nonprofit committed to teaching traditional northern crafts while fostering lifelong learning. The school's curriculum emphasizes hands-on learning and includes courses ranging from timber framing to northern ecology, birch bark weaving to artisan bread baking. The North House campus is located in northeastern Minnesota on the shore of Lake Superior and includes two historic timbered workshops (formerly warehouses), a timber frame "Fish House" classroom building, a timbered blacksmithing shop, a small house, and a 50' gaff-rigged schooner. During a typical year, over 100 regional artisans and crafts-people are featured as instructors.

Internship Program Vision

North House Folk School's Internship program is dedicated to preserving the future of traditional craft by nurturing an interest in craft education & hands-on learning. Interns increase their awareness of and exposure to various responsibilities involved with non-profit education and program management and play an active role in day-to-day campus coordination, public outreach and administrative support while also developing traditional craft skills. It is North House's goal to foster the development of our interns into lifelong craft educators and artisans as well as provide them the tools to be able to navigate through the every changing landscape of non-profit/craft administration.

Duties:

Support and participate in the mission/vision of the North House Folk School: "enriching lives and building community by teaching traditional northern crafts in a student-centered learning environment that inspires the hands, the heart and the mind." The ideals of teamwork, dedication, responsibility, efficiency and creativity are central to the success of the organization. The internship's work schedule and time commitments are divided among various roles, each of which is directly connected to the daily affairs and educational vision of campus. Tasks could include but are not limited to the following:

Public Outreach/Education

- Welcome visitors and the public to campus providing interpretation of North House's history and mission while also highlighting current/upcoming programs
- Host weekly wood-fired pizza potlucks for students and instructors
- Plan & Teach public programs for variety of audiences ranging from children to adults

- Prepare for and actively instruct weekly summer mini courses in core craft areas (Wood-Fired Baking, Timber Framing, Wood Working etc.) and potentially other areas.
- Participate in the North House's sailing program as a deckhand on the 50' gaff-rigged schooner, Hjordis

Traditional Craft Immersion

- Explore the world of traditional northern crafts via North House's curriculum, special events, public programs and intern specific coursework
- Purposefully build and develop individual skills by participating in self-selected coursework with the core of this learning happening during the first third of the internship
- Engage public to explore the world of traditional craft through live demonstrations in the outdoor commons during summer months
- Participate in unique "in field development" including but not limited to harvesting of traditional materials, field identification and/or personal instruction and philosophical discussion with North House instructors.
- Intern based service learning coursework. Interns participate in private instruction with a North House instructor while helping with campus facility needs i.e. making benches, stools, tables or similar items.
- Connect with 100+ talented and knowledgeable instructors visiting campus each year
- Complete a culminating traditional craft project (your "sloyd project") integrating an area of personal interest, North House's mission, public outreach and a unique craft initiative in a way that is compatible with North House schedule, space and resource availability in the fall season.

Operations Support

- Ensure program success by preparing and maintaining classrooms and helping instructors in set up and break down of courses as needed
- Assist with front office projects, school store duties, answering phones, registering students, providing general administrative support as well as excellent student/customer care
- Provide assistance and gain exposure in different areas of non-profit operations dependent on organizational needs
- Participate in hosting multiple seasonal special events and assisting with event auctions
- Actively contribute in day to day tasks and maintenance of campus

Ideal Qualifications

North House is seeking dynamic, organized and enthusiastic persons with a passion for traditional craft and hands-on education! Previous exposure to northern craft, experience facilitating small group learning and public speaking are all essential. Interns are expected to maintain high standards, take ownership and pride in their responsibilities and show self-initiative in enhancing their skills.

Excellent verbal/written communications, organizational and computer skills. Documented success managing multi-stage projects and background in engaging office projects that support educational programs. Confidence developing working relationships with instructors, volunteers and co-interns. A college degree, multiple years of college-level course work or similar life experiences with exposure to appropriate topics. Applicants should be flexible, energetic, focused and fun! Availability to work full time (40-45 hours/week, Wed-Sun, some evenings, some rotating Monday duties). Willingness to live on campus in a four-bedroom intern loft apartment while also immersed in the rhythm of campus life.

Compensation:

\$400/month paid stipend plus \$3000 tuition & materials credit towards participation in selected courses with the option of using up to \$250 of your tuition credit for completion of your “sloyd project”. Five paid in-field development days. Housing in harbor-side, timber-framed, solar-hot-water heated intern loft (with three other interns – shared living space, private bedrooms). Includes utilities, local phone, and internet. As compensation is paid, North House’s intern program is currently not open to international candidates (as defined by US Labor laws).

Position Dates:

Jan 27th to Nov 21 , 2016, duration 10 months, four positions available. Five days of paid “time off” available depending on the program schedule.

Inquiry & Application Timeline:

Info packets available – August 1, 2015. Applications must be submitted by closing date – October 1, 2015. Interviews take place during the two-three weeks following the closing date. Applicants are required to submit a portfolio of their work as it relates to northern craft and hands on learning.

Physical Requirements:

Position requires an ability to lift and carry 50 pounds, move around easily on the deck of a moving sailboat, utilize hand and power tools, climb ladders, work occasionally immersed in dust and flour, and stand upright for a number of hours every day. All interns sail aboard North House’s schooner Hjordis and thus are required to participate in a Coast Guard mandated drug testing program. Initial drug tests are administered at the start of the sailing season and random testing is done throughout the season.

Contact us:

Please request an information packet before applying. Send your cover letter, resume, and references to: North House Folk School, PO Box 759, Grand Marais, MN 55604
(218) 387-9762, info@northhouse.org , www.northhouse.org.