



HISTORIC SITE
at Garden of the Gods

JUNIOR DOCENT PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

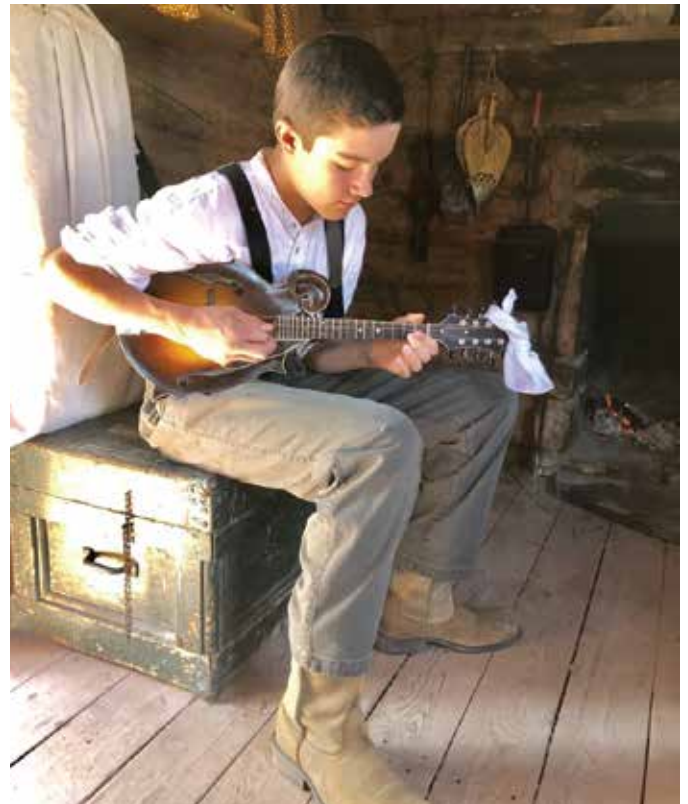
Rock Ledge Ranch
Historic Site

National Register
of Historic Places

FIRST STEPS

WHAT IS A JUNIOR DOCENT?

Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site Junior Docent Program is for youth/teens, ages 10—17, with a passion for history! The selected participants will dress in period-appropriate clothing and step back in time throughout the summer and special event programs. This is a volunteer program. There is age-appropriate work required of the Junior Docents, and it's possible they will leave dirty! There are so many things we do in history! They will provide tours to visitors, learn new things, play games, crafts. Oh, and that work we said? They'll do chores the old-fashioned way! (Laundry, anyone?)



UP-FRONT INFORMATION

- Before you apply, make sure your schedule allows for all the mandatory dates.
- Read through the Frequently Asked Questions. (Great Start!)
- Read the Junior Docent Manual before your interview!
- Brainstorm ideas for your site-specific training research project. Don't worry! It will be fun! (More on this later)



SELECTION

Q: This sounds awesome! I filled out the application! Now what?

A: Applications open March 1 each year. After your application is thoroughly reviewed by our application processing experts, we e-mail an interview invite to those selected. Those that did not receive an initial interview invite are waitlisted for available positions. Interviews are scored and scheduled according to availability. Waitlist applicants are contacted based on availability of positions.

Q: Is it possible one of my children will be accepted into the program and another may not?

A: Yes. This program is selective and based on many factors, which is why there are applications and interviews. We are assessing things like their enthusiasm, maturity, and genuine interest.

Q: If I have multiple children applying, and they are accepted, will they be assigned to the same session and times?

A: When it comes down to scheduling, the more flexible they are, the more chances they will have of being a part of the program. Junior Docents are scheduled according to their interview score, and we cannot guarantee coordinating schedules.

Q: How many spots are available?

A: There are about 100 total positions available and we usually get around 150 applications.

Q: What if I really want to be a Blacksmith Apprentice?

A: We require all Blacksmith Apprentices to be at least 16 years old and have previous volunteer experience at Rock Ledge Ranch. If you have blacksmithing experience as well, that is also a plus.





VACATION/SAFETY/FOOD

Q: What about our summer family vacation?

A: We get it— It's summertime! We want to help you make a lot of friends this summer, so after we interview and schedule, your contact information will be available to all the Junior Docents in this year's program. The Junior Docent is responsible for making arrangements for a substitute for their shift(s). (We don't need to know who or why. Only notify us if your shift is not covered.)

Historic Site Training is Tuesday, June 2nd, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. We put a whole lot of planning, preparation, and specific clothing for your assigned site, so substitutes are only allowed at the site they have been trained at for this year.

Q: What is the protocol in the event of inclement weather?

A: Safety is our #1 priority! In the event of inclement weather during their shift, the Junior Docents will shelter in place. This could be at a historic site, the General Store, or in the Office. Parents/Guardians may choose to pick-up their Junior Docent during a storm, but Junior Docents will always start and end their shift at the Office, signing-in and out. For status updates, call the office 719-578-6777, e-mail info@rockledgeranch.com, or visit the Rock Ledge Ranch Facebook Group for status updates.



Q: Should we pack a lunch or snack for their shifts?

A: Yes! Send a snack for your Junior Docent! Apples, nuts, cookies, cheese, bread, and other period appropriate snacks are great. Foods that are not period-appropriate will need to be hidden and consumed out of sight of visitors. We cook at the historic sites daily - it is an essential piece of historical interpretation! The food is sometimes available to the Junior Docents, but do not plan this as a meal for them. Please know this program is based on historical accuracy, and dietary restrictions are not considered. We expect the Junior Docent to be aware of any food allergy and to be responsible! Ask the cook (the staff person) what ingredients were used prior to consuming any food or drink.

A mason jar is an appropriate water container, but for historical accuracy, we ask that the ring and lid is covered with a piece of fabric. We want to make sure Docents stay hydrated at Rock Ledge Ranch, so water is always available at each site, in the Office, or in the General Store.





HISTORIC CLOTHING

Q: Do you provide clothes?

A: Yes. We have a period-appropriate Clothing Library collection for each site. Because height, weight, gender, and sizes vary from year to year, we may not have an outfit readily available for you. Some parents/guardians decide to check out a historic approved pattern from the Library and make their own outfit, some hire out the job. We'll be glad to consult your clothing options.

View the Period Clothing Guide attachment for historic site-specific styles. Each article of clothing borrowed from the library has a fee of \$5 per item, cash/check only (No cards). This low usage fee helps us to keep up the clothing and shoes. Clothing must be returned to the Library clean and pressed at the end of the season. Like you, Junior Docent, our talented Clothing Librarian is also a volunteer. Check-out and check-in will be scheduled, and mandatory.

Q: What else will I need?

A: Young ladies will need a basket with a handkerchief to cover any non-period appropriate items. Young gentlemen may carry a knapsack or pillow case in solid colors, such as off-white or brown. Black or brown tall cotton knee socks for ladies and gents. Straw hats are appropriate for nearly every site.

For adults who are interested in volunteering or becoming a Docent:

Please sign up at rockledgeranch.com

Q: It says a parent or guardian is required to volunteer. Does that mean I have to dress up, too?

A: Yes, we want you volunteer. No, you do not have to dress up. "Docents" wear period-appropriate clothing, and require site specific interpretation training. You'll help out in a different way! If you're not at a historic site, no special clothing is needed! If you have a special talent you'd like to volunteer—we want to know!

Q: ...But I want to dress up!

A: Just like the Junior Docent Program, we interview, train, and schedule the Adult Docents. Let us know you're interested! Training is in May before the season begins.

You're scheduled based on your availability! Can only be here when your Junior Docent is? Once a week throughout the summer? Great! No problem. We'll outfit you according to our library's availability, or you can provide your own approved clothing.

DID YOU KNOW?

Junior Docents in the Garden are able to visit all of the historic sites to deliver fresh produce!

EVENTS

Q: How do I sign my Junior Docent or myself up for events?

A: We weren't kidding when we said we e-mail a lot! Event registration is online through Sign-Up Genius, and we send signups out three weeks before the event takes place. There will be reminder e-mails, and if you'd rather sign-up in person, we can do that too! Shifts are usually about 4 hours—usually half the event. Depending on the length of the event, the availability is limited, and registration is required. So, plan ahead! These are some of the events available for parent/guardian volunteers:

SHEEP SHEARING DAY
Saturday, June 6, 10 am – 4 pm

FAMILY FOURTH
Saturday, July 4, 10 am – 4 pm

LABOR DAY VINTAGE BASEBALL
Monday, September 7, 10 am–3 pm
First pitch 1 pm

HARVEST FESTIVAL
Saturday, October 3, 10 am – 5 pm

EVERYTHING BUT THE OINK
Saturday, November 7, 10 am – 2 pm

HOLIDAY TEAS
Registration opens online *for members* on October 31st.
Public registration opens November 1st. All teas at 1 pm.

Friday, December 4
Saturday, December 5
Friday, December 11
Friday, December 18
Saturday, December 19

HOLIDAY EVENING
Saturday, December 12, 3–8pm

Questions? Contact:

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