HISTORICAL CLOTHING AND TEXTILES ARTISAN INTERNSHIP

Description:
From hand-made clothing and domestic furnishings to public demonstrations and programming, Plimoth Plantation’s Historical Clothing and Textiles Program is one of the many components that allow the Museum to bring history to life! Through practical, hands-on learning experiences, the Historical Clothing and Textiles Artisan intern will learn how reproducing historically accurate clothing in a museum setting encompasses a multitude of skills and processes, including research and development, use of period and modern construction techniques. Interns will also have the opportunity to share this knowledge and skill with our guests who visit Plimoth Plantation!

Position Summary:
Under the mentorship of the Manager of the Historical Clothing and Textiles Department, the Historical Clothing and Textile intern will gain valuable experience and insight into the steps involved in reproducing period clothing including research in the departmental and museum libraries. The intern will build skills and knowledge in pattern drafting, period construction techniques, 17th century accessories or trims (thread wrapped buttons, card woven trim, hat making, etc) and the unique workings of a costume shop within a museum environment.

Responsibilities:
- Under the mentorship of the Manager and other textile artisans, construct garments from individual measurements to final fitting and finishing
- Assist in maintenance of interpreters wardrobe, including laundry and mending
- Assist in the daily operations of costume shop, including attending daily meeting, and scheduling appointments
- Shadow textile artisan in public Craft Center space
- Conduct research and development as needed to complete projects
- Assist with collaborative inter-department textile related programming and projects as needed, including summer camp program, special events, retail projects, and knitting group
- Collaborate and assist with department’s volunteers
Qualifications:
Basic patterning skills, experience with operating industrial sewing machinery, hand stitching skills, familiarity with textile vocabulary, knowledge and/or interest in post-medieval or early modern history.

Length of Internship:
Summer 2015, May 26th to July 17th

Work Schedule:
Monday through Friday, work hours between 8:00am and 5:00pm, occasional weekend events required.

Salary Range:
The Historical Clothing and Textiles Artisan intern is eligible for the Mary Merrill Intern Scholarship, a $2,500.00 stipend.

Mary Klohr Merrill (1921-1999) was a scholar, researcher and accomplished tapestry weaver. Born in Chicago, Mary lived most of her life in Boston, Massachusetts and Hancock, New Hampshire. Mary had five children and was married to Charles Merrill, Jr., the founder of Commonwealth School in Boston.

A longtime member and Dean (1970-1972) of the Weavers Guild of Boston, Mary began her association with Plimoth Plantation in the 1970’s. Mary researched 17th-century clothing and textiles in England and skillfully applied that research to her craft. Her hand-woven bed curtains, yardage and blankets can still be seen on exhibit today in Plimoth’s 17th-Century English Village. Mary’s passion for history, attention to detail and dedication to accuracy advanced the clothing and textiles program at Plimoth Plantation to a new level.

Mary’s tapestries, which have been exhibited all over New England- including Historic Harrisville (NH), The Weaving Center (Hartford, CT), and Fuller Craft Museum (Brockton, MA)- reflect her passion for color, design and the vistas of Latin America.

The Mary Merrill Intern scholarship is a $2,500.00 stipend given annually by Mary’s family to a candidate demonstrating promise in the field of Historical Textiles and Clothing. Plimoth Plantation seeks a candidate whose interest, passion and scholarship reflect the qualities of Mary Merrill.

Special Notes:
To apply for this internship opportunity in our unique and exciting environment, please submit your cover letter, resume and intern application and letter of recommendation by email interns@plimoth.org. Please include the position title in the email subject line.

Check out our website at www.plimoth.org for up-to-date internship position availability. Thank you for your interest in Plimoth Plantation.