



## **Blacksmith Volunteer Program Overview**

Storowton Village Museum invites a new class of Blacksmiths to join our volunteer team to learn the artistry, trade, and historic significance of blacksmithing. Interested volunteers must be a minimum of 14 years of age (with parent permission if under 18), must be willing to talk and interact with the public, as well as be comfortable dressing in 19<sup>th</sup> century costume, and be able to follow safety guidelines. Additionally, new volunteers must be able to meet the expectations listed in the time commitment section below.

### ***Is there a cost to participate?***

In your first year, participation is \$450 for the year; this covers basic supplies, instructor fees and secures a commitment to the program. This equates to approximately \$15 per class and can be paid in 5 installments of \$90. A full fee schedule and payment and participation policies will be shared once approved by the Museum Director and Master Blacksmith to join classes. If after your first year you continue to attend classes regularly and commit to volunteering with the museum, the supply fee is waived. We are able to offer this course at a *significantly* discounted rate, because it is also supplemented by your volunteer time. Failure to complete payments will result in interest charges and suspension from class participation.

### ***How do you start?***

Fill out an application online. Museum Director, Jessica K. Fontaine will follow-up to discuss the commitment (typically via an in-person or Zoom meeting) and will refer you to our Master Blacksmith to see if it would be a good fit. Once approved by the Director and Master Blacksmith, you will, complete a participation waiver and submit a deposit; the Master Blacksmith will advise on when to begin attending classes. To apply fill out the form at [www.storowtonvillage.com/volunteer](http://www.storowtonvillage.com/volunteer).

### ***What will you learn?***

In your first year you will learn the basics of blacksmithing (if no experience), fire safety and safety within our shop, demonstration techniques and working with the public, historical information about the Clark Blacksmith Shop and Storowton Village Museum.

You must be comfortable wearing a historical costume (provided) and speaking with the public. Building and trade history is provided along with training to learn how to demonstrate for the public.

**What is the time commitment?**

- Regular attendance in classes
- Participation in at least one special event or tour annually
- Participation in Blacksmith Collective
- Volunteer for a minimum of 6 shifts during The Big E

The following is a tentative timeline. Classes are on Tuesdays from 7-9pm

\* There may be less classes based on holidays, weather, and vacation schedules. It is understood that students may need to miss classes occasionally due to personal or emergency circumstances and will not impact a student’s ability to continue as long as there is regular communication with the instructor.

<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
March – June	Volunteer blacksmithing classes	7-9pm (16 weeks)*
Various	Assist with at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- School Programs Tuesdays or Wednesdays during the school year 9:30am-11:30am</li><li>- General Tours in June &amp; July (includes Saturdays)</li><li>- Yuletide, first week in December (variety of days/times)</li><li>- A full detailed schedule will be provided for enrolled students.</li></ul>	Various
July – August	Volunteer blacksmithing classes – preparation for the Big E	7-9pm (8 weeks)*
September 15 – October 1, 2023	The Big E <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Must volunteer for a minimum of 6 shifts (shifts are 10am-2pm, 2pm-6pm, 6pm-9pm)</li><li>- Must attend Blacksmith Training prior to fair (8/16 &amp; 8/23 at 6pm)</li></ul>	Various
Mid-October – Mid-November	Volunteer blacksmithing classes	7-9pm (6 weeks)*
First Weekend in November	Blacksmith Collective	10am – 4pm

**How else can I be involved?**

There are many opportunities for our volunteers throughout the year to be involved in a variety of aspects of our museum. If you have interests outside of blacksmithing (no experience necessary), we invite volunteers to participate in gardening, Yuletide decorating, facilitating general museum tours, and proposing new ideas for programming and events. We are family-friendly and invite you to engage your entire family with our programming. A full list of opportunities is shared with volunteers at the start of the calendar year and include such incentives as free and discounted admission to Village events for you and your family/friends, volunteer-only workshops, social events with other volunteers, free admission to all 17 days of the fair, and much more! SVM proudly has a crew of 75+ volunteers whom our museum could not function without!