



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 19th 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. To hold your space four first payment of \$90 must be submitted. 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.

How do you start?

Fill out an application online. Museum Director, Jessica K. Fontaine will follow-up to discuss the commitment and will refer you to our Master Blacksmith to observe a class and 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. For more information or questions call Master Blacksmith John Richard at 413.218.6007 or Museum Director Jessica K Fontaine at 413.205.5050.

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.

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 will be available on Tuesdays or Wednesdays depending on the number of blacksmiths training with the volunteer program.

* 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.

Date(s)	Event	Time
March – mid-June (Tuesdays or Wednesdays)	Volunteer blacksmithing classes	7-9pm (16 weeks)*
May TBD	Blacksmith Collective	10am – 4pm
Various	Assist with at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- School Programs Tuesdays or Wednesdays during the school year 9am-12pm- History & Harvest, late October 10am-4pm- Yuletide, first week in December (variety of days/times)- Multiple opportunities come up to demonstrate for group tours as they’re scheduled	Various
July – August (Tuesdays or Wednesdays)	Volunteer blacksmithing classes – preparation for the Big E	7-9pm (8 weeks)*
September 16-October 2, 2022	The Big E <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Must volunteer for a minimum of 6 shifts (shift are 10am-2pm, 2pm-6pm, 6pm-9pm)- Must attend Blacksmith Training prior to fair	Various
Mid-October – Mid-November	Volunteer blacksmithing classes	7-9pm (6 weeks)*