



May 19, 2021

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - West Springfield, MA

Storowton Village Museum Presents New Teen Leadership Experience

Storowton Village Museum will embark on an exciting new program and networking opportunity for high school students in August – the Teen Leadership Experience – which will run the first two weeks of the month, Tuesday to Friday from 9:30am to 4:15pm. This innovative new program is able to run thanks to the generous financial support of the Country School Association of America (CSAA).

The Teen Leadership Experience will allow participants to build skills as future leaders, young professionals, and public history advocates, engaging students in an experiential way virtual schooling over the past year has not. The program will utilize the book and assessment tool “Clifton Strengths for Students” to guide leadership skill building and team dynamics. During the first week of the program, students will have the opportunity to work in two different areas of interest and will choose one track to focus upon and create a project during week two. Students will learn leadership skills and meet community leaders influenced by public history, in tandem with their historic studies and projects during the second week.

- Week 1: Students select a morning track (Blacksmithing: Basics of the Trade or Open Hearth Cooking: From Fire to Table) and afternoon track (STEM: Small Machines 19th Century to Today or Textiles: Cloth Production to Clothing Design). Students will learn foundational skills in the historic subjects as well as leadership and professional skills. By the end of the first week, students will identify one area of focus for the second week.
- Week 2: Students complete a project in their preferred track from week 1. They will also spend more time refining their leadership style to help them understand how their strengths can align with their ability to be a strong leader. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to begin putting their professional skills into action by meeting with community leaders who can share how their connection to public history has helped them progress in their chosen careers and the community at large.

“As we reignite our museum programs following our closure during the pandemic we are thrilled to have the growth of future leaders in public history at the forefront of our rebuilding. We are so grateful for our collaboration with local leaders, including Stan Svec, Chair of the History Department at West Springfield High School, to bring this program, many years in the making, to fruition,” said Jessica K. Fontaine, Director of Storowton Village Museum.

All students, public, private, or home schooled, are eligible to apply, however, priority consideration will be given to West Springfield residents. There is no GPA requirement, though prospective participants must submit one reference from a teacher or other non-family leader, such as a coach or other mentor during the application process. Students must apply by June 15, West Springfield resident applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis; all other applicants will be considered following the application deadline. If accepted a \$25 fee will apply to participate and supplements basic supply costs now covered through a grant from CSAA.

To apply visit <https://www.storowtonvillage.com/events/2021/teenleader2021>.