

Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Shared Internship Program Summer 2017



Overview

A self-directed history, public history or historic preservation student is sought for a unique internship opportunity at four sites in Maryland's Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area: [Antietam National Battlefield](#), [Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park](#), [Newcomer House](#) and [Pry House Field Hospital Museum](#). The intern will gain hands-on experience in the field of public history by creating and leading interpretive programs, providing educational experiences for school groups, and working behind the scenes at several sites of national significance. The intern will work full-time over the course of the summer, gaining valuable experience at four different—but related—historic sites. The intern will provide recommendations at the end of the summer for ways to strengthen a shared visitor experience across these sites, all located in Washington County, Maryland.

Basics

- **Eligibility:** Any undergraduate or graduate student, or recent graduate, in the fields of history, public history, historic preservation, education or related fields may apply. The ideal candidate will have an interest in Civil War history, public speaking skills/customer service experience, and a willingness to work independently.
- **Schedule:** 480 hours, 40 hours/week for 12 weeks. Preferred start date: Monday, May 15. Preferred end date: Friday, August 4. May include weekend and evening hours. Schedule may be negotiated when the internship is awarded and before the start of service.
- **Compensation:** \$2,800 stipend. The intern will also be eligible for free housing at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia if enrolled in six credit hours at the University (can be enrolled for summer-only for this benefit).
- **Transportation:** The intern must have their own vehicle to move from site to site. Mileage will be reimbursable at the federal rate, up to \$400. All sites are within a twenty mile radius.
- **Application process:** Email a one-page cover letter explaining interest and careers goals, along with a one-page résumé to Auni Gelles, Assistant Director of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (agelles@fredco-md.net), by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, February 15. Decisions will be announced via email by Wednesday, March 15.
- **Training:** The intern will receive approximately 80 hours of general training at the outset in addition to site-specific training mentioned in the descriptions below.

Description of Duties

Pry House Field Hospital Museum

The Pry House Field Hospital Museum is located on the Antietam National Battlefield and is a secondary site for the National Museum of Civil War Medicine located in Frederick, MD. Historically the PHFHM is extremely relevant to the bloodiest day battle in American history as it was the headquarters for General George McClellan.

The intern will be trained by NMCWM educators in presenting programs, lectures and how to give guided tours. We will also train the intern in our Point of Sale (POS) system so they would be able to work as Guest Services staff if they are needed. The intern will also be given research projects and asked to develop programs and lectures with the assistance of the Education department.

Antietam National Battlefield

Antietam National Battlefield is the site of the bloodiest single day battle in American history and provided the Union victory needed for Abraham Lincoln to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. The battlefield is set up as an 8.5 mile driving tour that starts at the visitor center, which is staffed by National Park Service staff, interns, and volunteers.

The intern will be trained by park staff regarding resources available at the front desk, fee collection procedures, visitor orientation information, and battlefield history. In addition, staff members will coach the intern in developing an effective interpretive overview of the battle lasting 20-25 minutes which will be delivered daily and address the park's interpretive themes and significance. The intern will also assist with scheduling and delivering educational programming for school groups, summer camps, and other youth organizations and families. For special events, the intern will assist in set-up, breakdown, and with programming and coordination as needed.

Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park

Preserving America's early transportation history, the C&O Canal began as a dream of passage to Western wealth. Operating for nearly 100 years the canal was a lifeline for communities along the Potomac River as coal, lumber, and agricultural products floated down the waterway to market. The Canal played a continuous role during the Civil War as both a strategic transportation route. Today it endures as a 184.5 mile pathway for discovering historical, natural, and recreational treasures!

The intern will receive training and coaching by Park staff to meet the standards for National Park Service interpretation and visitor services. She/he will be responsible for developing interpretive programs for the public, providing "roving" (informal visitor contacts) interpretation of the Canal, and staffing of Park visitor centers at Ferry Hill Plantation and the Cushwa Warehouse in Williamsport. Schedule permitting, the intern will assist staff with special events and activities for the public.

Newcomer House

The historic Newcomer House at Antietam National Battlefield is the site of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Exhibit and Visitor Center, made possible by a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau. The house was built in the 1780s as part of a prosperous mill complex and is one of the few original homes on the battlefield that is open to the public. During its open season, the house is staffed by knowledgeable National Park Service volunteers who offer resources to help visitors. Printed guides and brochures provide information about Washington, Frederick, and Carroll counties in Maryland. Three exhibit rooms explore the major themes of the heritage area: In the Heat of Battle, On the Home Front, and Beyond the Battlefield.

The intern will be trained in the same manner as the all-volunteer staff: with an introductory briefing followed by mentor training. The intern will work regular shifts at the front desk to assist visitors with planning their day at the battlefield and extending their trip to other heritage tourism destinations in the Heart of the Civil War. In addition, the intern will be tasked with creating a 30-minute ranger talk that can be presented at least once weekly. The presentation will focus on the history of the house and its residents, addressing the Heritage Area theme of "On the Homefront."