



# Youth Volunteer Stream Description - Animation & Interpretation

The Animation & Interpretation Stream is key to bringing the Heritage Village alive because it recreates what a village in the 1940s on the Eastern Shore would have been like and puts visitors in direct contact with real people who have experience, knowledge, and stories to share of this time.

## What's involved?

The Animation & Interpretation Stream involves the following youth volunteer roles:

- **Animator** - young people in period clothing who interact with artifacts, visitors, and the Village buildings as if going about daily life in the 1940s. Engage with young visitors, encouraging participation in activities such as wringer washing and stilts.
- **Kitten Monitor** - an extra responsibility of youth animators to watch over the Village kittens, make sure they are kept safe and not handled too much by visitors (or staff/volunteers!).
- **Play Area Monitor** - an extra responsibility of youth animators to watch over the play area and make sure children are using the equipment safely
- **Youth Guide** - young people in period clothing who engage and facilitate individual and group visits and school trips by greeting buses as they arrive, taking people around the Village and answering questions.
- **"Cookie"** - a young helper in costume in the Cookhouse. At the end of the lunch rush, the "Cookie" cleans tables, restocks the cutlery, and helps tidy up.

Time commitment:

- Whenever available during the summer season - June through September - when the Village is open to the public (Wednesday to Sunday, 9:30am-4pm). You can volunteer for a whole day or a morning/afternoon. Group/ bus/school tours are normally booked well in advance and a schedule can be provided at the beginning of the summer season.
- Youth Animators are also needed for a few special events during the off-season such as A Walk Through Christmas Past held during the end of November.

## Age Range

Roles in this volunteer stream are suitable for young people of all ages. Youth under 15 often particularly enjoy animator and monitor roles. Youth Guide is generally more suited to a slightly older youth (12+). We always approach age in relation to a particular role on a case by case basis.

## Why get involved?

By getting involved with this volunteer stream you will:

- Join a friendly, enthusiastic, and supportive team of volunteers
- Meet other young people from the local area
- Learn about the history of the Eastern Shore
- Receive training and develop skills related to your role(s). Training will mostly be on-the-job
- Have opportunities to take part in mentorship and knowledge transfer programs
- Develop valuable experience for your resume
- Earn hours towards school/group community service requirements
- Make a meaningful contribution to the local community
- Get to see behind the scenes at a heritage attraction

## Skills, Experience & Interest

- **Animation** - interest in learning about life in the 1940s on the Eastern Shore; willingness to wear a period costume; confidence in speaking with members of the public in a casual setting or wanting to develop skills in this area; making visitors feel welcome.
- **Kitten Monitor** - enjoys being around animals; ability to gently but firmly let people know when kittens need some time away from people.
- **Play Area Monitor** - ability to explain and demonstrate using play equipment safely; ability to gently correct children when using play equipment unsafely; confident in finding adult help if someone keeps using equipment unsafely.
- **Youth Guiding** - interest in learning about life in the 1940s on the Eastern Shore; willingness to wear a period costume; comfortable speaking to groups of people; making visitors feel welcome.

## Recognition

As a thank you for their time and effort, youth volunteers receive the following:

- Free Cookhouse meal on volunteering days (Jun-Sept, and during special event / designated volunteer days)
- Invitation to Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - and you can bring a friend!
- For 10+ volunteer hours in a year, a free Lake Charlotte Area Heritage Society membership which includes:
  - Free admission to Memory Lane Heritage Village (including most special event days)
  - Ability to vote at all meetings of the Society (for those 14+)
  - 10% off Cookhouse Chow, Special Event Meals, and Heritage Dinners
  - Discounted pricing on many evening events and Heritage Village branded merchandise
- Youth Socials 1-2 times per year (usually at beginning and end of summer season) - pizza parties, ice cream socials, games nights etc.
- Youth Volunteer Awards, including certificates and small prizes