

# The Schiele

Museum of Natural History

## **Museum Aboriginal Cultures Education Internship Program Overview**

**Objective:** To provide in-service learning experience in museum Social Science and Cultural History interpretation and educational activities.

**Internship Focus:** Interns will be involved with the delivery of Cultural History and Social Science content to museum audiences. Interns will support the utilization and management of the Catawba Indian Village as an interpretive program site, develop primitive skills that directly relate to program content, and also support activities such as program development, program evaluation, data collection and resource management that are required for a successful education program.

**Internship Duration:** Internships correspond with academic semesters and are available during spring (January-April), summer (May-August) and fall (September-December). A full-time internship would require a minimum of 320 hours with a time commitment of 40 hours per week. A part-time internship would require a minimum of 160 hours with a time commitment of 12-25 hours per week. Both full and part-time internships are available during the spring, summer, and fall semesters.

### **Institutional Summary:**

The Schiele Museum of Natural History is the premier natural science museum in the Charlotte-Metro region and serves nearly 200,000 visitors a year. Museum interpretive operations deliver mission-based information to visitors and program participants through presentation activities and exhibit experiences. The Education Department, comprised of 8 staff and 10 part-time or contract interpreters, delivers mission-based programs, events, classes, workshops and field experiences to 80,000 participants annually, including all segments of our audience: students on field trips, outreach programs, adults, families, and youth organizations. The James H. Lynn Planetarium and Science Theater is a 152 seat facility with a staff of 3, providing public programs 6 days per week to general audiences and for school field trips. Other interpretive operations include the Exhibits Department and Museum Live Animal Program.

### **Internship Summary:**

The Museum Aboriginal Cultures Education Internship will provide an in-service learning experience that illustrates a career in informal education programs. The intern will learn the critical steps in the preparation, application and administration of education programs in a museum setting. Upon completion of the program the intern will have a better understanding of informal education in a museum setting.

### **Internship Supervisor:**

Sara English, Aboriginal Cultures Program Specialist, will provide day-to-day supervision and instruction for the Museum Aboriginal Cultures Education Internship. Sara facilitates adult

workshops, plans and presents educational programs, and manages outdoor interpretive sites, including a Catawba Indian Village, Stone Age Heritage Site, and Outdoor Education Center.

**Goals and Objectives:**

1. **Gain an understanding of program presentation procedures.**  
*Intern will participate in the development and delivery of cultural history and social science programs in a variety of formats, including verbal presentations, table displays, and hands-on workshops.*
2. **Develop skills in managing educational equipment and resources.**  
*Intern will learn strategies to utilize and manage outdoor interpretive sites such as the Catawba Indian Village for educational programs, learn to operate typical program equipment, and gain experience in supply acquisition and preparation for programs.*
3. **Develop primitive skills that directly relate to program content**  
*Participate in and practice primitive skills that can be used to interpret lifeway's of past cultures. Intern will help develop workshops and programs that highlight these skills. Intern will be able to participate in additional primitive skills opportunities, such as the annual Knap-in.*
4. **Explore strategies in the planning and promotion of programs.**  
*Intern will participate in program planning sessions. The participant will work with staff to develop written program descriptions and organize information for marketing. The participant will also participate in strategies to promote programs, both in email distribution, mailing projects and face-to-face promotional events.*
5. **Participate in data collection and evaluation for educational programs**  
*Intern will learn skills critical for the assessment of educational programs, including their effectiveness in meeting goals from the NC Standard Course of Studies. The participant will assist in developing a remedial instrument to evaluate an existing museum program, summarize the data and suggest improvements.*
6. **Develop a basic understanding of all museum operations, including their application to a variety of audiences: schools, families, summer camps and adult education.**  
*Intern will be introduced to all operational areas of the museum including exhibits, collections, research, and administration. The participant will observe a variety of educational programs to see how a variety of instructional styles are applied in the museum setting. The participant will review museum program information (print, web-based) and meet with staff to learn how education programs are developed to meet the needs of a diverse audience.*
7. **Written and Verbal Evaluation of Activities**  
*Interns will reflect upon their experience through a verbal evaluation and written documentation. During the last few weeks of the internship, interns will meet with the intern supervisor to review the internship experience. Interns will be asked to verbally evaluate themselves and the internship during this meeting. A written evaluation will be completed by the intern supervisor for each intern. This evaluation will review the intern's performance, including strengths and weaknesses. The purpose of this evaluation is to aid interns in future endeavors by helping them grow as individuals. Completion of this documentation concludes the internship.*

## **Qualifications and Requirements**

- Willingness to get dirty
- Must be able to lift and carry up to 50 lbs
- Strong communication skills
- Comfortable speaking in front of the public
- Comfortable addressing learners of all ages
- Ability to work independently after sufficient training and experience
- Must be at least 18 years old and currently enrolled in or recently graduated from a higher education facility, such as a community college, state college or university, or private university.
- Must meet minimum time requirements determined by full or part-time internship
- Willingness to work weekends, holidays, and occasional evenings.

**Compensation, food and transportation are NOT provided.**

**Housing is available on site at the Schiele Museum of Natural History on a first come, first serve basis.**

**Application deadlines are as follows:**

**Spring – October 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Summer – February 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Fall - June 15<sup>th</sup>**

## **How to Apply:**

Email resume, letter of interest, availability, and housing needs to Tony Pasour at [tonyp@cityofgastonia.com](mailto:tonyp@cityofgastonia.com). You may also contact Tony with any questions regarding the internship via email, or call at 704-866-6919.