

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

News Release

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Washington County Historical Society Offers Summer Internship for Students

Application Deadline is April 1, 2009

Stillwater, Minn. – The Washington County Historical Society is inviting post-secondary students to apply for a paid summer internship position at the Warden's House Museum in Stillwater and the Hay Lake School Museum in Scandia. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2009.

The internship program introduces students to the day-to-day workings of a regional history museum and the interpretive educational process. The internship provides a rare opportunity to directly apply academic skills and training in a unique working environment, as well as provide exposure to a career as a history museum professional.

Application Process

Please send application letter, resume, and two letters of reference by April 1, 2009 to: Washington County Historical Society, c/o Internship Committee, P.O. Box 167 Stillwater, MN 55082. Please call (651) 439-5956 or visit www.wchsmn.org for more information.

Qualifications: The intern must be an undergraduate or graduate student majoring in History or a related field. S/he should have good English and communication skills, be reliable and able to work both as a team member and independently. S/he should have creativity, pay attention to detail, present him/herself well, and enjoy working with the public.

Position Overview: The internship is a mixture of training and hands-on experience. The intern will be invited to learn about day-to-day operations of a small history museum, including summer lectures, research facilities, exhibit display and design, collections care and preservation of artifacts. Opportunities will be offered to attend board meetings, participate in fundraising activities, assist with Society sponsored events and contribute to the quarterly newsletter.

Requirements: Intern will keep a journal to record relevant experiences and significant events of their internship, resulting in either a written summary or oral presentation on their work.

Supervisory Procedures: The supervisor will work with the intern to set goals, both personal and objective to be tracked throughout the ten week period. Formal status meetings will be held with the Historic Sites Supervisor on a weekly basis to communicate work plans, set goals, review work done and answer questions. Other meetings will be held on an informal basis, as needed.

“The internship enables the student to get first-hand knowledge of an established historical society, by giving guided tours of National Historic Register properties, conducting historical research, working at the WCHS county fair booth, and gaining a fuller understanding of why history matters today and into the future,” said WCHS Executive Director Brent Peterson.

The internships are made possible by an annual grant donated by the DeLonais Foundation.

Founded in 1934, the Washington County Historical Society is a private, donor-supported, nonprofit organization with more than 700 individual, family, and business members. WCHS is supported by individual gifts, memberships, earned income, and foundation grants. For more information, please visit www.wchsmn.org.

WCHS is celebrating its 75th anniversary during 2009.