

FORT TICONDEROGA AMERICA'S FORT

Maritime Interpreter

Status: Temporary Seasonal Position

PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

Fort Ticonderoga is one of North America's most significant and oldest historic sites. Its mission is *to ensure that present and future generations understand the struggles, sacrifices and victories that shaped the nations of North America and changed world history.*

We serve this mission by:

- preserving and enhancing our historic structures, collections, gardens, and landscapes;
- educating and inspiring the public as it learns about the history of Fort Ticonderoga and the diverse peoples who met here in war and in peace.

Fort Ticonderoga is comprised of 2,000 acres and includes the reconstructed Fort, the Carillon Battlefield, the Pavilion and the King's Garden, Mount Defiance, Mount Independence, Native American historic sites and numerous other historic features that span the property's history. The Fort Ticonderoga Museum holds one of the largest and most significant collections of 18th century military material culture in North America. Current staffing includes 20 full-time employees and approximately 80 temporary employees. Fort Ticonderoga annually serves more than 75,000 visitors.

Fort Ticonderoga is a non-profit institution open to the public since 1909.

PRIMARY PURPOSE OF POSITION

Maritime Interpreters bring Lake Champlain's maritime history to life through living history demonstrations of boat building, naval trades, and through guided tours aboard the tour boat Carillon. From the vantage point of this 1920s replica tour boat, the Maritime Interpreter tells the incredible stories of Ticonderoga, tracing ancient war paths along Lake Champlain. On land, a Maritime Interpreter works on in building and maintaining period wooden boats, practice sail making & other trades in front of guests. Maritime Interpreters bring their practical experience with period boats to help illuminate story telling on the water. The Maritime Interpreter acts as a First Mate to the Carillon Captain, assisting with visitor entry and exit from the vessel, as well as launching and docking. The Maritime Interpreter also aids the Captain in emergency situations to safeguard visitor and vessel safety. In conjunction with the Captain, the Maritime Interpreter also assists in the maintenance of the Carillon.

INTERPRETIVE SKILLS

- ❖ Required to act and dress professionally
- ❖ Required to act and dress accurately out of respect of the historical individuals they portray

- ❖ Apply and interpret their mechanical trade within the season's specific interpretive topic
- ❖ Able to interpret and practice a variety of 18th-century mechanical skills
- ❖ Able to cope with a variety of weather conditions using 18th-clothing and skills
- ❖ Able to interpret the history of Lake Champlain, Ticonderoga, and inland waterways

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- ❖ Able to talk to an audience of diverse age and backgrounds
- ❖ Follow, annotate, and update operations and maintenance checklists
- ❖ Clearly communicate with large groups and individuals
- ❖ Communicate effectively in verbal and written form
- ❖ Clearly inform visitors of all maritime safety information
- ❖ Presents a professional image with regards to Fort Ticonderoga in all media
- ❖ Work with other members of the interpretive staff
- ❖ Understand and follow the directions of Captains and Supervisors

RESEARCH SKILLS

- ❖ Able to read and comprehend both primary and secondary historical sources
- ❖ Able to learn and utilize research techniques including transcription and artifact annotation
- ❖ Able to read and understand plans and schematics
- ❖ Able to apply research skills to public interpretation

QUALIFICATIONS

- ❖ Must have previous tour guide or guest service experience
- ❖ Boating operations experience preferred
- ❖ 2-years period carpentry experience preferred

PHYSICAL EFFORT

- ❖ Able to lift fifty pounds
- ❖ Able to stand and walk for an extended period (up to 4 hours)
- ❖ Able to be outdoors in a variety of weather conditions
- ❖ Manual dexterity appropriate to the interpretive requirements

SAFETY FOR OTHERS

- ❖ Required to ensure the safety of all visitors and crew on the vessel Carillon
- ❖ Required to ensure the safety of the tour boat Carillon and associated docks & equipment
- ❖ Required to safely demonstrate, use, and maintain 18th century tools

OVERVIEW & GOALS

The story of Ticonderoga is the waterways that defined it from the 18th century to the present day. Following the same routes that soldiers rowed along to-and-from Ticonderoga, the Maritime Interpreter can bring these epic stories to life for guests on board the tour boat Carillon. Whether naval fleets built below the walls of Fort Ticonderoga or a unique perspective on the site's battlefields, countless, rich tales are available to discuss with guests on and off the water. A creative, insightful, positive, and driven candidate for the position of Maritime Interpreter has the opportunity to bring visitors once-in-a-lifetime experiences cruising along Lake Champlain. This position will engage visitors in living history programs, cross-training in 18th century skills to enrich their maritime narrative. Maritime Interpreters will assist with special hands-on maritime school and

scout programs. This position will also help with highlighted programs within special events. As part of the tour boat Carillon's compliment of captains and crew, the Maritime Interpreter also works to ensure safe service to passengers. Maritime Interpreters will assist with taking reservations prior to embarking for tours. This position will build valuable nautical skills: loading and unloading passengers, basic navigation, & maintenance. At the same time, Maritime Interpreters will build valuable period skills in boat building, caulking, & sail making techniques. With centuries of stories to tell and craftsmanship to show, this position also helps impact Lake Champlain today, highlighting its industrial use and preservation efforts.

SCHEDULE

Must be flexible, able to work weekends and some evening shifts may be required. This is a temporary seasonal position. Fort Ticonderoga is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

To apply send letter of interest, resume, three references, and one letter of recommendation to Nicholas Spadone, Director of Interpretation, Fort Ticonderoga Association at 30 Fort Ti Road, Ticonderoga, NY 12883 or e-mail NSpadone@fort-ticonderoga.org. Faxed applications can be sent to 518-585-2210. For more information call 518-585-2821. For additional information on Fort Ticonderoga visit www.fort-ticonderoga.org. Application deadline is April 13, 2018.

*Fort Ticonderoga Maritime Interpreter
March 2018*