

# FORT TICONDEROGA AMERICA'S FORT

## *Teamster 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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**

The Teamster Interpreter is a full-time seasonal interpreter who presents the daily life of soldiers and livestock at Fort Ticonderoga. The Teamster Interpreter will use farm skills both to educate visitors about working with animals, but also to meet the needs of living history programs at Fort Ticonderoga. The Teamster Interpreter leads educational programming related to livestock, engaging visitors about the history of Fort Ticonderoga. This historically-clothed interpreter is part of the public face and voice to visitors at this historic site and acts with corresponding respect and professionalism. They should be vigilant sentinels of site stewardship and visitor safety while educating a wide variety of visitors through interpretive programming. The Teamster Interpreter is an active participant in the refining each season's interpretive programs, especially with regards to their farm-related activities.

### **JOB DUTIES**

- ❖ Engaging with visitors through livestock related talks and demonstrations
- ❖ Driving cattle for training, work, and living history programs
- ❖ Daily feeding & grooming of cattle
- ❖ Daily feeding & care of chickens

- ❖ Daily cleaning and mucking stables, stalls, run-ins, and coops.
- ❖ Managing feed, bedding, & other livestock supplies.
- ❖ Maintaining, and constructing fencing
- ❖ Maintaining, and expanding heritage breeds tools, equipment, and vehicles.
- ❖ Assisting with hoof trimming, vaccination and other veterinary needs

### **INTERPRETIVE SKILLS**

- ❖ Required to act and dress accurately out of respect of the historical individuals they portray
- ❖ Apply and interpret their livestock duties within the season's specific interpretive topic
- ❖ Able to cope with a variety of weather conditions using 18<sup>th</sup> clothing and skills
- ❖ Able to learn and apply a variety of 18<sup>th</sup> century mechanical skills

### **COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

- ❖ Able to talk to an audience of diverse ages and backgrounds
- ❖ Clearly communicate with large groups and individuals
- ❖ Communicate effectively in verbal and written form
- ❖ Presents a professional image with regards to Fort Ticonderoga in all media
- ❖ Able to communicate culturally or politically sensitive information respectfully and tactfully
- ❖ Work with other members of the interpretive staff
- ❖ Understand and follow the directions of the Director of Interpretation and all supervising staff.

### **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 apply research skills to public interpretation

### **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 safely demonstrate, use, and maintain a variety of 18th century tools
- ❖ Required to safely demonstrate, use, and maintain 18th century vehicles
- ❖ Required to safely work with large and small animals in close concert to visitors and other staff members
- ❖ Required to care for and keep healthy large and small animals

### **OVERVIEW & GOALS**

The Teamster Interpreter will educate visitors at Fort Ticonderoga using both the skills of the 18<sup>th</sup> century teamster and farmer applied in the military setting of Ticonderoga. The Teamster Interpreter should come with proficient knowledge of handling, caring for, and working with large and small livestock. The Teamster Interpreter will have an eagerness to continue building their skills and applying them to the interpretive goals of a season at Fort Ticonderoga. The Teamster Interpreter must be ready and able to teach other interpreters farm chores and duties in order to fulfill both the

interpretive and practical functions of their work. Their skills are an important part of the experience of visitors and other interpreters at Fort Ticonderoga. The Teamster Interpreter has the opportunity not only to highlight the work they love for visitors, but also to add scope and breadth of the work of Fort Ticonderoga, extending their knowledge of the farming and cattle driving along the way.

### **SCHEDULE**

Must be flexible, able to work weekends and some evening shift 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](mailto: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](http://www.fort-ticonderoga.org). Application deadline is February 23, 2018.***

*Fort Ticonderoga Teamster Interpreter  
January 23, 2018*