



Georgia Museum
of Agriculture

Youth Packet
2020/2021 Youth Apprentice Application

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Youth Apprentice Overview

Thank you for your interest in the GMA's Youth Apprentice Program! This volunteer program is open to young adults between the ages of 14 and 18. The program benefits both the participants and ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture. The program is designed to offer youth an opportunity to learn about the past, gain hands-on experience for the professional work environment, and prepare them to take an active role in volunteering. Along the way apprentices make new friends, discover new skills, and have countless fun memories. We do require hard work and excellent behavior from our youth. In return, we aim to make great young people even better through the GMA's unique and enriching cultural environment.

To be selected as a youth volunteer, applicants must turn in a written application and participate in a short interview. If chosen to participate, youth volunteers may work in all areas of the Museum grounds. Examples include:

- **Historic Village:** Youth in historic costume demonstrate life of the time period. Youth may care for livestock at the farm, assist with chores and homestead activities, learn crafts and/or trades, or help maintain gardens.
- **Vulcan Steam Train** and related areas: Youth help load and unload guests from the train. They will ensure safety precautions are taken by all guests and staff during the train ride. There will be opportunities to serve as a conductor on the train.
- **Children's Activities:** Youth demonstrate crafts and games of the 19th century.
- **Country Store:** Youth help with greeting visitors and explanation of the museum.
- **Drug Store:** Youth may help with greeting visitors, serving food, dipping ice cream, etc.

Each youth volunteer typically works in several, though not all, of the above areas. The GMA has historic clothing for temporary loan depending on sizes. We also have patterns available for those that wish to make their own costume.

Throughout the year, youth assist with special events such as the Folklife Festival, Trick or Treat in the Village, Freedom Festival and North Pole Express. They might also work behind the scenes helping with tasks such as preparing crafts for future exhibits and cleaning artifacts. Youth volunteers may also participate in media initiatives such as photo shoots and outreach programs throughout the state.

GMA will offer a series of both mandatory and voluntary training sessions for the youth interpreters covering a range of topics including crafting, gardening, 19th-century life, guest service, professionalism and more. We will also take at least one field trip to another museum or historic site.

Participants must work a minimum of 60 hours per year. Most students achieve this by volunteering the required 30 hours in June and July and then volunteering for at least four of our special events



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that are planned during the year. During the summer, the youth apprentice program activities and workshops occur from **9:00 am – 2:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays**. Interested individuals may volunteer on Wednesdays, Fridays, and/or Saturdays if they would like. The GMA schedule varies slightly in the spring and fall, and some special programs do occur in the evenings. Youth volunteers are also encouraged to volunteer on Saturday's throughout the year, but not required.

The primary focuses of the program are learning about agriculture, history, and natural resources, along with developing a spirit of volunteerism. By the end of the year, the youth should gain a basic knowledge of these areas and hone such skills as **communication, teamwork, responsibility, and leadership**.

If you are interested in applying for the 2020/2021 program, you will need to complete an application with all necessary paperwork. **The deadline for applications to the youth volunteer program for the 2020/2021 calendar year is April 17, 2020.**

Looking forward to a great summer!

Sara Hand
Assistant Director
Georgia Museum of Agriculture
Office 229-391-5208
sfhand@abac.edu

Gina Beckman
Historic Village Supervisor
Georgia Museum of Agriculture
Office 229-391-5211
gina.beckman@abac.edu



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Deadlines & Interview Schedule

Please return this form by **Friday, April 17, 2020**. Late applications will not be accepted. **Two letters of recommendation** on the supplied form, are required as a part of the application, so ask your selected people early. Please send in your application as soon as possible. We will schedule applicant interviews as soon as we receive each application. Thanks in advance for helping us with this scheduling and timing.

There will be a mandatory parent's meeting on Tuesday, June 2 at 5:30 pm.

Applicant Information

Name: _____
 First Middle Initial Last Preferred Name

Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: (home) _____ (cell) _____

E-mail Address: _____

School Name: _____

Grade in School: _____ Gender: Male ___ Female ___

Will you be at least 14 years old by May 28, 2020? Yes ___ No ___ Date of Birth ___/___/___

Parent/ Guardian Information

First Contact Name: _____ Employer: _____

Address (if different): _____ Day Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Relationship: _____



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Second Contact Name: _____ Employer: _____

Address (if different): _____ Day Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Relationship: _____

Availability

With the exception of very rare required days, we have flexible scheduling: however, we do have a special need for youth who can work during the summer and Special Events.

1. In general, are you available to volunteer at least one day from 9 am-2 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday in the summer? Please circle one.
YES NO (You may still apply for the program even if you answer “no.”)

A summer volunteer’s typical schedule is: volunteer for 4.5 hours a day (9am – 2pm with a 30 minute lunch break), working two days out of Tuesday-Saturday; the weekly total would therefore be 9 hours. Youth volunteers are required to work four weeks in the summer.

2. In general, are you available to volunteer for Special Events on Saturdays and some weeknights (for North Pole Express) June 2020 – May 2021. The Museum will host the following Special Events within the coming year.

July 4, 2020: Freedom Festival

October 31, 2020: Trick-or-Treat in the Village

November 14, 2020: Heritage Days (formerly Cane Grinding & Syrup Cooking)

December 3-5 and 10-12, 2020 (multiple nights): North Pole Express

April 3, 2021: Folklife Festival

3. Are you available for Youth Apprentice Training on **Tuesday, June 2, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm?** (Please circle one.)

YES NO (If **NO**, please discuss via phone with me prior to turning in your application.)

There will be a mandatory parent’s meeting on Tuesday, June 2 at 5:30 pm.



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4. Please list below any dates that you are not available to volunteer such as scheduled family vacations, church camps, or missionary trips.

Experience

1. Please list your experiences working with the public or as a volunteer. Continue on a separate piece of paper if necessary.

Activity Description	Duration (2 hours a week for 2 years, 7-day mission trip, etc.)

2. Give an example of a time you worked as part of a team. Tell us what your goal was, how you overcame any difficulties, and what specific role you had within the team.
3. Do you have responsibilities/chores at home? If so, what are they?



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4. *Other than school assignments*, please list any experience you have with history (history clubs, a time period you love researching for fun, reenactments, etc.).

5. Describe a time when you were new to a large group and how you got to know the group.

6. Do you have any historic skills? If so, please describe.

_____ Sewing

_____ Weaving

_____ Carpentry

_____ Crochet/Knitting

_____ Character Portrayal

_____ Music Instrument

_____ Gardening

_____ Painting/Sketching

_____ Cane Pole Fishing

_____ Other

Describe:

7. Do you have any experience working with animals such as pets and/or livestock? If so, please describe.



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8. Do you have other special characteristics that would make you a good volunteer? If so, please describe.

_____ Timely _____ Works Independently _____ Follows Directions

_____ Communicates Well w/
Others _____ Works Well w/ Peers _____ Works Well w/
Younger Children

_____ Works Well w/ Adults _____ Age Appropriate Maturity _____ Good Work Ethic

_____ Other

Describe:

9. How did you hear about the Youth Volunteer Program?

_____ Friends _____ School _____ 4-H _____ FFA

_____ Boy Scouts _____ Girl Scouts _____ Social Media _____ Newspaper

Other:(describe)_____

10. How do you feel about being outdoors?

11. Describe what you think excellent customer service means. If you have experienced good customer service, please write about it.



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12. Please provide **two (2) letters of reference using the form provided. One must be from a current teacher.** Attach to application. Provide names of the references and relationship to you.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is my application due? Before or on **Friday, April 17, 2020.**

May I type my application?

Yes. Handwriting or typing is fine; we do, however, appreciate applications that are easily read!

May I have help with my application?

It is important that your application is neat, so you may have help with spelling, typing, and handwriting; however, your parent is not the volunteer, **YOU** are! Make sure your application reflects your own unique self.

Does my application have to be on this form?

No. If you prefer, you may copy the application into a word processing document on your computer.

How do I return my application to you?

By postal mail: Attn: Sara Hand, Assistant Director, Georgia Museum of Agriculture, 1392 Whiddon Mill Rd, Tifton, GA 31793.

Delivery: Georgia Museum of Agriculture, 1392 Whiddon Mill Rd, Administrative Office or the Country Store checkout desk. Put Attn: Sara Hand on the front of the envelope.

By email: sfhand@abac.edu

If you email your application, please make sure you receive a confirmation. This may take several days, but we will respond if we get it. We don't want to miss anyone due to an electronic error!

For other questions, call Sara Hand at 229-391-5208 or Gina Beckman at 229-391-5211.



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Reference Form

Applicant Name: _____

Interested volunteer applicants should have two reference forms completed by adults.

- Adults cannot be related to the volunteer applicant
- One of the two referrals **MUST** be from a teacher (history or English preferred) or counselor
- Note the form is TWO pages. Please complete both.

Please return to the Georgia Museum of Agriculture **on or before April 17, 2020.**

Dear Teacher/Counselor/Adult,

Name: _____ has applied to participate in the youth apprentice volunteer program at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and has chosen you as a reference. Participants commit to a minimum of 60 hours of service over the course of one year, with 30 hours being in the summer months of June and July and the other 30 throughout the rest of the year. As youth apprentices, volunteers will assist within the museum and the community.

Thank you for taking the time to recommend this applicant. Please fill out the following form to the best of your knowledge and cite examples when possible. Feel free to attach pages if necessary, to better describe this applicant. If you have any questions, please email: sfhand@abac.edu.

1. Please use the following scale to rate the applicant.

1 = Below Average; 2 = Fair; 3 = Average; 4 = Good; 5 = Excellent; 6 = Outstanding; U = Unknown							
Oral Communication Skill	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Dependability	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Maturity	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to Follow Direction	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to be Self-Motivated	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to Work Well W/ Others	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Willingness to Learn	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to Solve Problems	1	2	3	4	5	6	U



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2. Please tell us why this applicant would be a great addition to the volunteer program.

3. Please tell us how this applicant would benefit from participating in the volunteer program.

4. Do you feel the applicant can balance school, other obligations, and the commitment to the volunteer program?

5. Other comments or concerns:

6. I recommend this applicant with (please circle one):

Serious Reservations

Slight Hesitations

Confidence

Great Enthusiasm

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

How you know the applicant: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Email or mail to Sara Hand

sfhand@abac.edu

Georgia Museum of Agriculture

1392 Whiddon Mill Road, Tifton, GA 31793



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Slight Hesitations

Confidence

Great Enthusiasm

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

How you know the applicant: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Email or mail to Sara Hand

sfhand@abac.edu

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