



## Cracker Country Program Summary

History Connector Program 2016-2017

Applications Accepted: July 1 – August 31

### **Program Description:**

Do you enjoy history? Then become a History Connector and discover rural Florida's history and learn the importance of preserving its heritage. Through research, building studies, and historic site interpretation you will build self-confidence, gain valuable skills, and have fun!

History Connectors depict the lives of early Florida settlers by wearing a historical wardrobe and interpreting rural Florida history at various community events and educational programs. The History Connector program also offers historic and interpretive classroom trainings throughout the year and opportunities to volunteer for the museum behind the scenes. This program is a wonderful opportunity for teens to develop leadership skills, to give back to the community, and to meet new people of all ages.

### **Program Benefits:**

- Real-world work experience
- Public speaking opportunities
- Earn volunteer hours
- Learn about rural Florida history, folklife, and traditional trades

### **History Connectors Requirements:**

- Age: 13-17 (all individuals who will turn 13 by December 31, 2016)
- Program runs September-May
- Maximum of 10 accepted applications a year
- Requirements (Level 1, 2, & 3):
  - Training:
    - Historic Topics/Interpretive Teaching Classroom Trainings:
      - Saturday, September 10, 2016
      - Saturday, October 8, 2016
      - Saturday, November 5, 2016
      - Saturday, January 21, 2017
      - Saturday, February 4, 2017 (Florida State Fair Training)
        - If a History Connector wishes to participate in a tour program they will need to attend the corresponding program training.
    - Public History Interpretation: History Connectors are assigned to historical sites to interpret Florida's history and trades, answer questions, and behave in a responsible and professional manner.
      - History Connectors are required to attend the following community events:
        - Museum Day: Sept 24, 9:45am-4pm



- Christmas in the Country: Dec. 10, 9:45am-4pm
  - History Connectors are required to work at least 3 shifts during the Florida State Fair.
    - Florida State Fair: Feb. 9-20, 2017
- Additional History Connectors Volunteer Opportunities
  - History Connectors are required to attend the following outside cleanups
    - Saturday May 20, 2017

\* All History Connectors are invited to attend any events, field trips, outreach opportunities, sewing programs, and trainings that are listed in the Docent Updates and Newsletters. Any time there is an offsite opportunity a guardian will be required to attend. Please let Jennifer know when you may be attending.

### 2016-2017 Program Calendar

**September 10**, 9am-12pm\*— Training

**September 24**, 9:45am-4:00pm – Museum Day (public opening)

**October 8**, 9am-12pm\*—Training

**November 5**, 9am-12pm\*—Training

**December 10**, 9:45am-4:00pm – Christmas in the Country (public opening)

**January 21**, 9am-12pm\*—Training

**February 4**, 9am-11am—Florida State Fair Training (public opening)

**February 9-20**, time varies—Florida State Fair

**May 20**, 9am-11am—Museum Cleanup Day

\* Level 1 will be done at training at 11am. Level 2 will be done at training at 12pm. Advisors will be done at training at 12pm.

### Level 1:

Working closely with Adult Docents and Level 3 History Connectors, Level 1 History Connectors will learn the basics of museum interpretation and how to share rural Florida's history through our historic sites.

### Level 2 Group Project:

After completing the requirements of a Level 1 History Connectors, you will be welcomed into Level 2 of the program. Level 2 history connectors are encouraged to take the lead on interpreting the historic sites.

All Level 2 History Connectors will work together on our training dates to create an interpretation project.



### **Level 3 Mentorship & Advisory:**

After completing the requirements of a Level 2 History Connectors, you will be welcomed into Level 3 of the program. Level 3 History Connectors are asked to take on a mentorship role with History Connectors working in the program. Please assist new History Connectors with recording volunteer hours, breaks and lunch schedules, docent rovers, and how to navigate the program. Level 3 History Connectors may be assigned to work in a location with a Level 1 History Connector, please help them throughout the day.

Level 3 History Connectors also serve as youth advisors supporting the *advancing of knowledge and understanding of rural Florida history for the youth in the community that we serve.*

- Council Member Responsibilities:
  - Contributing ideas to the group
  - Exhibiting strong traits of leadership and professionalism
- You Are Accountable for:
  - Timely communication of successes, concerns, and questions
  - Managing your schedule
  - Working as a team, sharing responsibilities, and working through challenges
  - Identifying and working with differing styles of leadership and collaboration

### **History Connector of the Year**

Requirements:

- You must be a level 3 History Connector
- You must have met all of the requirements of a Level 3 History Connector
  - Such as: attend all of the required meetings, clean-ups, and Sat. events, and the 3 required shifts of the Florida State Fair
- Each candidate can nominate themselves by writing a 250 word letter answer the following questions:
  - What have you learned from your 3+ years of experience as a History Connector?
  - How will these experiences help you throughout your life?

All submissions will be judged by a panel of at least three third party judges. Submissions must be turned in by May 1, 2017.