



Cracker Country Program Summary 2019-2020

Applications accepted July 1 – August 31

Program runs September – May

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: 13-18 (all individuals who will turn 13 by December 31, 2019)
- Maximum of 10 accepted applications a year
- Dates:
 - **September 7, 2019** 9am-12pm — *History Connector Training*
 - **September 21, 2019** 9:45am-4:00pm — *Museum Day**
 - **October 12, 2019** 6pm-9:30pm — *Tall Tales Event**
 - **December 14, 2019** 9:45am-4:00pm — *Christmas in the Country**
 - **January 18, 2020** 9am—11am — *Training*
 - **February 1, 2020** 10am—1:00pm — *Florida State Fair Training*
 - **February 6-17, 2020** Times vary — *Florida State Fair**
 - History Connectors are required to work at least 3 shifts during the Fair
 - **May 16, 2020** 9am—11am — *Clean-up Day*

* Dates listed with an asterisk are days that Cracker Country is open to the public. Please arrive in costume and be ready to interpret history. History Connectors are assigned to historical sites to interpret Florida's history and trades, answer questions, and behave in a responsible and professional manner.

If a History Connector is unable to attend a required event they may schedule make-up volunteer hours with Melissa Sullebarger. If any of the above dates or times change, you will be notified as far in advance as possible.

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 Melissa (Melissa.Sullebarger@FloridaStateFair.com) know when you may be attending.

If a History Connector wishes to participate in a program they will need to attend the corresponding program training listed in the Docent Updates and Newsletters.