

VCU World Studies

V i r g i n i a C o m m o n w e a l t h U n i v e r s i t y

The Fairfield Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for profit organization dedicated to the archaeological research, historic preservation, and public outreach on Virginia's Middle Peninsula. Our primary archaeological project is the Burwell plantation in Gloucester County, known as Fairfield/Carter's Creek. In 2000, the foundation launched an extended investigation into all aspects of this colonial plantation.

Our team of professional archaeologists, historians, laboratory and material cultural specialists works closely with interns and volunteers to study the plantation landscape and all of its residents, from the Native Americans who lived on the site prior to the Burwell's patent of 1648, through the African-Americans living on and farming the property before and after the 1897 fire. This interdisciplinary group combines documentary research, archaeological fieldwork, scholarly and popular publications and exhibitions to promote a greater appreciation of the plantation's history and its role in the larger Atlantic World.

Internships are built around the Fairfield Foundation's everyday activities and research. Most interns engage in various aspects of archaeological study to gain experience with lab and field methods, along with archival and material culture research. Interns can also pursue other interests such as history, oral history, American studies, architectural design, historic preservation, non-profit management, museum studies, and related disciplines.

Program Guidelines: The Fairfield Foundation accepts interns throughout the year. Interns work primarily at the Fairfield archaeological site and at our nearby lab at the Rosewell Visitor Center, both in Gloucester County. Scheduling is accomplished on a first-come first-served basis. Free or low-cost housing with host families is available, but is limited. Interns can also pursue their own accommodations. Transportation between the site/lab and the host family residences is generally provided. Commuting students are also welcome. All equipment is provided, though applicants may wish to bring their own personal gear, such as gloves, notebooks, etc.

There is a \$150/week internship fee to help cover the cost of equipment, transportation, logistics, and administrative tasks related to the internship. The fee is due with the application. Scholarships are available to cover fees and are based on financial need. Internships are not offered for college credit, but they can be integrated with for-credit courses at your school.

Expectations Interns typically work alongside Fairfield Foundation staff for the duration of an 8hour work day/5-day work week, although schedules can vary. Opportunities are also available to assist with additional work, including lab nights and dig weekends. Depending on the type of internship, applicants may be working in hot and humid conditions, need to carry heavy buckets (approx. 30lbs), and work within a physically demanding environment. Optional readings, oriented to the intern's interests, are provided and strongly recommended.

Interns are expected to assist with our public archaeology program, work with school groups and other volunteers and interns, learn and teach basic lab and field methods, archaeological documentation, and artifact identification. Exposure to these elements of the research process better prepares students for the variety of tasks connected to archaeology and its related disciplines. They are encouraged to contribute their experiences to our intern blog.

Apply Now! Contact us and we will send you a short application and answer any additional questions.

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