**Position:** Living History Performer

**Reports to:** Living History Coordinator, Director of Interpretation

**Status:** Part-time, non-exempt (not to exceed 29 hours/week)

**Hours:** Variable (May include weekend and holiday hours)

**Salary:** $17.45/hour

**Description:**

Mark Twain House tours and programs provide interactive visitor experiences for a variety of audiences. Living History Performers work with adults, children, families and tourist groups. The goal of this program is to provide consistent and exemplary visitor experiences that are educational, enjoyable, and able to motivate people to want to learn more.

Living History Performers guide tours of The Mark Twain House in period-appropriate dress while portraying a figure from the house’s long history, drawing on both scripted material and independent research to engage with the public. There are seasonal opportunities for additional living history performances and programming.

Tour preparation includes memorizing a 60-minute script and learning about Mark Twain, his family, and his historic Hartford home.

**Duties/Responsibilities:**

* Learn an hour-long tour script (provided by Living History Coordinator) for a specific historic character. Living History Tour Guides should be able to learn and perform the scripts in full, but should also be open to improvisation and answering visitor questions on tours.
* Lead visitors on tours in the Mark Twain House as a costumed character, as part of the Museum’s daily tour schedule.
* Be open to participating in educational programs and other specialty events, such as press events, rental programs, Twain Teas and the Cigar & Whiskey Steamboat offering.
* Serve as security for the museum’s collection during all programs and tours, and report missing or damaged items to the Curatorial Department.
* Be mindful of visitor needs during all tours and follow safety procedures.
* Learn additional information about Mark Twain, his family, Hartford and the house, as needed.

**Knowledge & Skills Required:**

* Effective acting and communication skills.
* Ability to work with people of varying ages, skills and capabilities.
* General understanding of museum operations & procedures as well as visitor (customer) service concepts.
* Ability to work effectively with other employees, visitors and volunteers.
* Ability to solve problems and make decisions under pressure.

**Work Environment:**

The work involves direct contact with the public, under sometimes demanding conditions during periods of heavy visitation. The position also requires standing for long periods, managing several sets of staircases, working in a dimly lit environment and withstanding various weather conditions.

**Benefits:**

Employee membership to the Museum, which includes free admission and discounts on programming. 20% discount in Museum Store and Cafe.