

## STUHR MUSEUM

### Position Description

<b>Position:</b>	<b>Living Historian      Part-time Seasonal Position.</b>
Department:	Interpretive Resources
Position Reports to:	Director of Interpretive Resources
Work Period:	Season is May 1 – Labor Day, with training dates in April, and event dates in September, October and December.
Hours:	9 am to 5 pm most days, 11 am to 5 pm Sundays, occasional night hours Period Clothing

### SUMMARY:

Interprets all aspects of life in central Nebraska and the Great Plains during the 1840s through the 1920s for visitors at various sites within the museum.

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### PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Greets and welcomes visitors to the museum.
2. Provides accurate interpretations at various sites and programs throughout the museum as needed.
3. Does preparatory work for interpretations, including reading, studying, planning, organizing, and updating from individual research and training sessions; chooses appropriate techniques and themes; and adjusts interpretations as needed to meet the needs of each group.
4. Answers visitors' questions about all aspects of life in central Nebraska in the 1880-1920 period, including historical events, institutions, architecture, furnishings, political issues, and so forth; provides general information about the museum and the community, involves visitors in experience living history activities as appropriate, and provides general assistance to the visitors.
5. At all times, behaves in an appropriate period manner.
6. Occupies time when not interpreting to visitors in a period appropriate manner.
7. Informs appropriate staff of any maintenance problems with the buildings, safety hazards, etc. in their work area.
8. Dresses in a period appropriate manner for each assigned site. All garments and accessories used by interpreter must conform to Clothing Guidelines as outlined in the Interpretive Manual and be approved by the director of Historical Interpretation.
9. Cleans historic buildings and surrounding areas using available cleaning equipment (e.g., mops, vacuum, etc.) as outlined by the Collections Department. Makes sure all food related waste is removed from work site daily.
10. Does yard work such as watering and weeding the flowers as part of living history activities as required.
11. Observes visitors to ensure no artifacts or buildings are damaged. Takes necessary action to minimize risk of such damage.
12. Takes necessary steps to ensure safety and security of guests.
13. Updates knowledge of current trends and developments in the field of interpretation by reading appropriate journals, books, and other literature available in the Research Center and attending related training programs and the like.
14. Attends required annual training.
15. Helps, when assigned, to lock and unlock structures and/or interpretive sites.

### Minimum Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

1. Ability to read at a level normally acquired through completion of high school when studying materials to prepare interpretations.
2. Requires training and work experience to be able to present interpretations, answer questions, know safety policies and procedures, and so forth.

3. Analytical skills are that necessary to develop interpretations, adjust interpretations to the group, understand museum policies and procedures, and so forth.
4. Advanced communication skills required to be able to provide interpretations, answer questions, deal with unruly visitors, and so forth, all the while maintaining period appropriate behavior for the site.
5. Must be able to design training programs for sites as required by the Director of Historical Interpretation.
6. Ability to communicate effectively with visitors, staff, and volunteers, provide historical interpretations at assigned sites, answer questions, read and understand training materials and historical information, and so forth.
7. Requires standing, walking, and climbing stairs for up to 80 % of work time when doing interpretations, cleaning interiors of structures, doing yard work, and so forth. Must be able to lift up to 15 lbs.

**Working Conditions:**

Exposure to extremes in temperature and changes in weather for up to 80 % of work time and lifting up to 15 pounds for up to 5 % of work time when working in Stuhr Museum.

**Reporting Relationships:**

1. Reports to the Director of Interpretive Resources and other lead interpreters as assigned.

*The above is intended to describe the general content of the requirements for the performance of this job. It is not to be construed as an exhaustive statement of duties, responsibilities, or requirements. In no way does this description constitute a contract, implied or otherwise.*