

Shafer Historical Museum
Museum Educator / Docent Practicum

Supervisor:	Suzanne Perin, Shafer Museum Executive Director
Salary:	\$14.49/hour, 24 hours/week for 10 weeks
Period of Employment:	June 21, 2022 - August 26, 2022 3 days per week, including at least one weekend day
Participation Requirements:	Living in the Methow Valley for the summer Enrollment in UEPP 471 Campus Sustainability Planning Studio course Meets 2 days per week (3 credits) Optional internship credits are available but not required (up to 8 credits)

Overview

The Shafer Historical Museum preserves and shares the history, culture and sense of place in the Methow Valley to inspire human connection and learning. As one of the Methow Valley's centers for cultural engagement, SHM cultivates the appreciation of history across generations and is a destination for locals and visitors to the region, the state and the nation. The museum collects and displays artifacts from the pioneer, mining and founding period of the towns in the Methow Valley, from the 1880's-early 1940s.

Responsibilities

The Educator / Docent will engage in three inter-connected educational activities, that build the student's knowledge of rural, agricultural and historic practices:

- 1) Host museum visitors as a docent
- 2) Present hands-on activities oriented towards children related to agriculture, frontier life or natural history
- 3) Enter and research artifacts for the museum database

After completing training, the Educator / Docent will present local Methow Valley and Washington State history to the public as a museum host, responsible for opening or closing the museum, speaking and interacting with museum visitors, and providing

welcoming, friendly front-line customer service. The Educator / Docent will also present hands-on educational activities for children and families, including setting out the daily materials and leading the activity; these include crafts, making/tinkering, small building projects, and similar activities. And, the Educator / Docent will work under the direction of the museum's archivist to catalog and inventory artifacts, including researching, documenting and photographing artifacts for entry in the database. It is desired that the Educator / Docent will select a subset of these artifacts as the inspiration to produce their own hands-on activities.

The Educator / Docent will report to the Museum Director, and work alongside key staff and volunteers in this position. The Educator / Docent will be required to work at least one weekend day.

Qualifications

Applicants should have or be interested in:

- Coursework or interests in education, environmental education, history, agriculture, rural studies, sustainability, or museum studies
- Good organizational, speaking, and presentation skills
- Both take direction and work independently
- Basic computer skills
- Experience and enjoyment working with and/or teaching children
- The ability to research and develop engaging and interactive activities based on local and national history
- Welcoming, reliable, and enjoys working with the public of all backgrounds, orientations and abilities
- Comfortable with public speaking

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<https://sustain.wvu.edu/pathways>

Please direct all questions to Sustainability Pathways Director, Joshua Porter at:

Joshua.Porter@wvu.edu