

# So You Want to Be A Conner Prairie Youth Volunteer?

At Conner Prairie, Indiana's first Smithsonian Institute Affiliate, we inspire guests to ask questions about Indiana and the world around them. Our 800+ acre property offers families a place to come together and connect with history, science, nature, art and most importantly, one another. Conner Prairie is a place where the doors are always open to a diversity of voices and limitless experiences. Our Youth Volunteer Program teaches youth about history in a hands-on immersion environment, making learning painless, personal, and fun. We welcome young people of all backgrounds, ages 10-18.

## Where Do I Work?

All youth volunteer in at least one blue shirt area, meaning you wear a modern uniform. After some experience, you may volunteer in a costumed area if you provide your own historic clothing. Neither style should be viewed as "superior" to the other.

Key:



= Youth may wear historic costume in this area (1<sup>st</sup> person)



= Youth may wear blue shirt, our modern uniform, in this area (3<sup>rd</sup> person)



Welcome Center: Help young children with free play and science activities In Discovery Station/Craft Corner and Spark!Lab.



Animal Encounters: Care for our chickens, cattle, goats, sheep, and other rotating baby animals in the Conner Barn. Assist guests in interacting with the animals.



Conner House: Explain the architecture of this historic brick building as well as the fascinating life of William Conner, early fur trader.



Lenape: Lead hands-on activities in this 1816 trading camp and trading post. Teach the history and culture of the Lenape (Delaware) people.



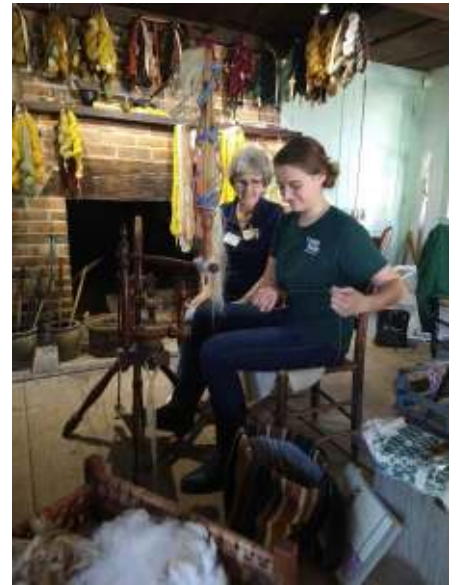
Prairietown: Portray frontier life as fictional characters in this 1836 village. Typical activities include games, chores, and trades.



1863 Civil War Journey: Help with guest orientation, marching drills, and field hospital interpretation.



Treetop Outpost: Interact with guests as they create and learn about Indiana's natural surroundings, architecture, art, and history. Assist guests in make and take crafts such as paper making and candle making.



## What Do I Do?

- Make our guests feel welcome. Invite them to play games and try activities.
- Talk to the public about Indiana history.
- Assist with special events like Headless Horseman and A Merry Prairie Holiday.
- Work behind the scenes with such tasks as preparing crafts and cleaning artifacts.
- Participate in media initiatives such as commercial shoots and outreach programs.
- Attend trainings (both required and voluntary) covering a range of topics such as spinning, 19<sup>th</sup> century games, 19<sup>th</sup> Century life, guest service, and more.
- Speaking to guests and doing chores is a substantial part of the program. If accepted, you will work hard in this program.



## How Often Do I Work?

Youth volunteer a minimum of 120 hours per year. Most students achieve this by volunteering 2-3 full days (or 4-6 half days) a month, between the hours of 9a-5p. Some special programs occur in the evenings. With the exception of a few required days, we work our schedule around your needs. New Youth Days, which take place on 2 separate days in the winter, are examples of required days if you make it into the program.

## How Do I Apply?

Due to high interest, our selection process happens in 2 rounds.

Application Round: Submit a 2023 application by Friday, January 6.

Interview Round: We will contact all applicants on Friday, January 13 to let you know if you are moving on in the selection process. Conner Prairie selects the top applicants for an interview. This year, Conner Prairie will be conducting interviews in small group format, pandemic permitting.

Acceptance into Program: On Friday, February 3, 2023, we will contact all applicants who had interviews to let you know if you have been accepted into the program.

The process is competitive. We have such GREAT young people apply! We have room for 115 youth volunteers in 2023 (including returning youth volunteers). If you are sincerely interested, please apply! You may have what it takes.

### Prospective Youth Volunteer Information Meeting Tuesday, Dec 6, 2022, 7-9pm Conner Prairie, Woodlands

This is an overview of the Youth Volunteer Program. Attendance is encouraged but not required. The information meeting is designed for both applicants and their guardians. We will have an hour-long formal meeting, and another hour to mingle with staff and some of our current youth volunteers. The meeting will take place upstairs in our Welcome Center in the Woodlands Room. No need to RSVP, but should inclement weather occur, please call the reception desk to be sure the meeting is still proceeding. The phone# is 317.776.6000. This is planned as an in-person meeting, but if necessary due to the pandemic, we will offer this as a virtual meeting.



## Timeline

Applicants must adhere to all deadlines and appointments to be considered.

- Early Oct, 2022 – Applications available.
- Dec 6, 2022 (Tues), 7-9p- Optional Prospective Youth Volunteer Information Meeting.
- Jan 6, 2023 (Fri) – Applications due. Applications postmarked Jan 6 will be accepted. No late applications will be accepted.
- Jan 13, 2023 (Fri) – Applicants will be notified whether they have been selected to move on to the Interview Round.
- Jan 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 & 28, 2023 - In-Person Interviews
- February 3, 2023 (Fri) – New Youth Volunteers announced.
- Feb 11 or 12, 2023 (Sat or Sun, your pick), 10a-4p – New Youth Day 1. MANDATORY.
- Feb. 28, 2023 (Tues), 6-8p – Optional Welcome and Awards Party.
- March 4 or 5, 2023 (Sat or Sun, your pick), 10-4p – New Youth Day 2. MANDATORY.
- March 28, 2023 (Tues) – Possible Season start date.
- April 1, 2023 – Youth must be at least 10 years old by this date to be eligible for the program.

Questions? Contact us!

SARAH E. MORIN  
Youth Experience Manager

BILL FREIL  
Interpretation Coordinator  
YouthVolunteers@connerprairie.org  
317.776.6000 ext 259



# 2023 Youth Volunteer Application

Thank you for your enthusiasm for Conner Prairie. Feel free to contact Sarah Morin or Bill Freil with any questions about the application process (317.776.6000 ext. 259 or [YouthVolunteers@connerprairie.org](mailto:YouthVolunteers@connerprairie.org)). Please return this form by **January 6, 2023**. No late applications accepted.

### Applicant Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian E-mail Address (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Youth E-mail Address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be at least 10 years old by April 1, 2023?      Yes      No

Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Availability

With the exception of very rare required days, we have flexible scheduling. We do, however, have special need for youth who can work during school tours and Sundays.

1. In general, are you available to volunteer 9am-5pm weekdays in the fall and spring?

YES NO

(You may still apply for the program even if you answer "no.")

2. In general, are you available to volunteer Sundays 9am-5pm April-October?

YES NO

(You may still apply for the program even if you answer "no.")

3. Are you available for New Youth Day Training on ALL of the following dates?

- Feb 11 or 12, 2023 (Sat or Sun, your pick), 10a-4p – New Youth Day 1. MANDATORY.
- March 4 or 5, 2023 (Sat or Sun, your pick), 10a-4p – New Youth Day 2. MANDATORY.

YES / NO

(You must answer "yes" in order to be considered for program.)

## Experience

1. Please list your experiences working with the public or as a volunteer. Continue on a separate piece of paper as necessary.

Activity Description (include not only name of organization but what you did)	Duration (2 hours a week for 2 years stocking a food pantry, 7-day trip building houses, etc.)

2. Tell us about your experiences working on a team(s).

3. Other than school assignments, please list any experience you have with history (history clubs, a time period you love researching for fun, reenactments, etc.).

4. Other than school assignments, please list any experience you have with science or nature (clubs, science experiments you do at home for fun, etc.).

5. Do you have any historic skills such as sewing, weaving, carpentry, etc? If so, please describe.

6. Do you have any experience working with animals? If so, please describe.

7. Do you have other talents that would make you a good volunteer? If so, please describe.

8. We are curious how you heard about our program. Please check the most appropriate choice(s):

I found out about the Youth Program through:

- Conner Prairie website
- other social media
- email
- brochure
- asked a staff member while visiting the historic grounds
- from a Conner Prairie outreach or booth
- a friend or family member who belongs to the Conner Society, Horizon Council, or Alliance
- a friend or family member who is a Conner Prairie volunteer or employee
- other \_\_\_\_\_

## Essay Question

Please answer the question in essay form on a separate sheet of paper. We are looking for organized, thoughtful, and original answers. We love details! Feel free to include pictures, drawings, artwork as part of your essay. If it is more convenient for you, feel free to video yourself answering the essay in a video clip five minutes or less. Email the clip to [YouthVolunteers@connerprairie.org](mailto:YouthVolunteers@connerprairie.org).

You are the manager of a band. What is the name of the band? What kind of music are they playing? Where will you book their gigs and why? How do you ensure that everyone in the band attends rehearsals? What do you do if band members argue? How do you ensure that all audience members can attend the concerts and enjoy the performances? (200-500 words.)

## FAQs:

When is my application due?

**Friday, January 6, 2023.** We will accept hard copy applications postmarked January 6 or submitted on our website by 11:59p January 6. We cannot accept late applications.

Can I type my application?

Yes. Handwriting or typing is fine. We appreciate applications we can easily read! We are also willing to accept a video application – contact us to discuss.

Can I have help with my application?

It is important that your application is neat, so you may have help with spelling, typing, and handwriting. However, we are not hiring your guardians, we're hiring you! So make sure your application reflects your own unique self, not anyone else.

Does my application have to be on this form?

No. If you prefer to copy the whole thing into a word processing document on your computer that's fine.

How do I return my application to you?

On our website: Connerprairie.org

By snail mail: Conner Prairie / attn. Youth Experience Manager / 13400 Allisonville Rd, Fishers, IN 46038

By email: YouthVolunteers@connerprairie.org

If you email your application, please make sure we respond with a confirmation. This may take several days, but we will respond if we get it. We don't want to miss anyone due to an electronic error! If you apply on our website, you will be taken to a confirmation page so you know it went through.

NOTE: If you use Googledocs, please do not submit your application by sharing the document directly through Googledocs. Instead, download your finished application as a pdf or Word doc file and email as an attachment. You can also fill the application out directly on our website, connerprairie.org.

What do I do now?

You are invited to an *optional* Information Meeting Tuesday, December 6, 7-9pm in the Woodlands Room in the Welcome Center. We will notify you on or before January 13 to let you know if you will be moving on to the Interview Round of the selection process.

Thanks for your interest!