

Junior Interpreter Fact Sheet Isaiah Davenport House Museum

What is a Junior Interpreter?: A Junior Interpreter (JI) is a young person who “interprets” the museum to the public. In other words, a JI is a trained tour guide who leads visitors through the museum and has attained – or is attaining -- all of the skills of an adult interpreter (tour guide).

The Site: The Isaiah Davenport House tells the story of early 19th century Savannah through the Isaiah Davenport household, the 1820 Federal-style house Davenport built and historic interiors interpretation. The historic house museum is owned by the Historic Savannah Foundation.

History: The Davenport House began the Junior Interpreter program in March 2003 to provide an educational and a service-oriented program for students ages 14 through high school. During summer 2003 the first group of JIs completed training and began giving tours of the museum house. In the fall of 2005 the Davenport House and Savannah Arts Academy began offering the JI program to sophomore American history students in the evening.

Purpose: To establish a volunteer group of young people, who have the desire to make a long-term commitment to Davenport House, with the ultimate goal being to develop ambassadors who are advocates and stewards of the community’s museums.

Participation Fee: The program is offered free of charge thanks to a donation from the Wormsloe Foundation which covers supplies and refreshments.

Who can join: The Junior Interpreter program is open to anyone between the ages of 14 – 19 who commits to one year of service and agrees to the rules of the museum (see below).

Continuance of the Program: The Davenport House staff hopes participants will continue their service to the museum beyond throughout their high school careers.

Age limit: Participants shall be between the ages of 14 - 19.

Programs and Activities: The Junior Interpreter activities are planned around participants’ interests and staff expertise. The museum emphasizes learning the site’s history and interpretation, and presenting that information to the public. The Junior Interpreter activities involve presentations by staff as well as slide programs, videos, group discussions, job shadowing and mentoring.

Staff Involvement: Jamie Credle, Director, is the program leader. Other museum personnel provide activities and act as advisors to participants.

Meetings: The schedule for summer 2015 is from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 10; Tuesday, June 16 and then Thursday evenings, June 25 through July 23; all day Friday, July 31. During the school year meetings will be held on a monthly basis. The program’s membership will vote on the best time and date for monthly meetings.

Gathering Place: Unless otherwise noted, Junior Interpreters will gather in the 2nd floor training room of the Davenport House.

Drop-off and Pick-up: Junior Interpreters are to be dropped off either in the Davenport House parking lot directly behind the museum or at the Gift Shop door on Habersham Street. Junior Interpreter, who drive themselves, shall park in the Davenport House parking lot.

Health and Permission Forms: Junior Interpreters must complete a health/permission form (including two emergency telephone numbers) and have it on file in the Davenport House prior to special endeavors and/or contact with the public.

Dress: Junior Interpreter may dress in their own personal style for meetings and training. However, for activities which involve contact with the public, staff requires a uniform appearance. The attire shall be a navy, white or black t-shirt (free of writing, designs and holes), khaki or black/navy canvas pants or a skirt, and leather shoes. No inordinate body adornments (un-natural hair dye, piercing beyond the ears, or visible tattoos) or attire is allowed during public activities.

Missed meetings: The staff of the Davenport House realized that participants lead busy lives. However, attendance at training is required. A Junior Interpreter may miss up to three meetings per year. After three absences his or her status will be reviewed by the Adult Advisor and the Junior Interpreter leadership regarding continuance at the Davenport House. All participants will be oriented to the museum either by staff or other Junior Interpreter. Participants should call 912/236-8097 to inform staff of his/her absence prior to the meeting.

Sincerity of Commitment: The Junior Interpreter group is not intended merely as a way for young people to complete required community service hours, instead it is an opportunity to be a vital part of an organization which needs your help and participation.

Rewards for Service: Rewards for participants will be based on hours and quality of service.

Rules: Junior Interpreter shall conduct themselves in a mature manner at all times by respecting museum property, other Junior Interpreter, museums staff, and volunteers. The museum staff reserves the right to dismiss a Junior Interpreter for inappropriate conduct. Codes of conduct will be part of the development of standards by the leadership of the Junior Interpreter/Explorers.

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