

What is the Fairfield Foundation?

The Fairfield Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to archaeological research, historic preservation, and public outreach on Virginia's Middle Peninsula. Our primary archaeological project is the Burwell plantation in Gloucester County, known as Fairfield or Carter's Creek. In 2000, the foundation launched an extended investigation into all aspects of this colonial plantation.

Our team of professional archaeologists, historians, laboratory and material cultural specialists works closely with interns and volunteers to study the plantation landscape and all of its residents, from the Native Americans who lived on the site prior to the Burwell's patent of 1648, through the African-Americans living on and farming the property before and after the 1897 fire. This interdisciplinary group combines documentary research, archaeological fieldwork, scholarly and popular publications and exhibitions to promote a greater appreciation of the plantation's history and its role in the larger Atlantic World.

Fairfield's activities are supported through grants from private and public entities, as well as donations from organizations and private individuals like you! Visit us on the web at www.fairfieldfoundation.org or join our fan page on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/fairfieldfoundation).



Apply Now!

Contact us and we will send you a short application and answer any additional questions.

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Internship Program



Internships are built around the Fairfield Foundation's everyday activities and research. Most interns engage in various aspects of archaeological study to gain experience with lab and field methods, along with archival and material culture research. Interns can also pursue other interests such as history, oral history, American studies, architectural design, historic preservation, non-profit management, museum studies, and related disciplines. Internships in photogrammetry and 3D modeling will be available in 2019.

Interns are typically high school or college students, but anyone over 16 may apply. They work closely with the professional staff and are exposed to a broad range of experiences. We recommend short-term (1-3 weeks) introductory internships for first-time applicants. For more advanced students looking at career options or for-credit projects, we recommend focused, research-oriented internships that are designed to explore specific historic, academic, or methodological interests.



Program Guidelines

The Fairfield Foundation accepts interns throughout the year. Interns work primarily at the Fairfield archaeological site and the Center for Archaeology, Preservation and Education in Gloucester County. Scheduling is flexible and based on student availability. Free or low-cost housing is available for non-local interns, and transportation between the site/lab and the host family residence is generally provided. All equipment is provided, though applicants may wish to bring their own personal gear, such as gloves, notebooks, etc.

There is no internship fee for local high school students during the school year. During the summer there is a \$175/week fee to help cover the cost of equipment, transportation, logistics, and administrative tasks related to the internship. The fee is due with the attached application. Scholarships are available to cover fees and are based on financial need. Internships can be integrated with for-credit courses at your school.



Expectations

Interns typically work alongside Fairfield Foundation staff for the duration of an 8-hour work day/5-day work week, although schedules can vary. Opportunities are also available to assist with additional work, including lab nights and dig weekends. Depending on the type of internship, applicants may be working in hot and humid conditions, need to carry heavy buckets (approx. 30lbs), and work within a physically demanding environment. Optional readings, oriented to the intern's interests, are provided and strongly recommended.

Interns are expected to assist with our public archaeology program, work with school groups and other volunteers and interns, learn and teach basic lab and field methods, archaeological documentation, and artifact identification. Exposure to these elements of the research process better prepares students for the variety of tasks connected to archaeology and its related disciplines. They are encouraged to contribute their experiences to our intern blog.

