

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 our website at www.fairfieldfoundation.org and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to learn more!



Apply Now!

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

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Internships in Preservation Technology



Program Description

The Fairfield Internships in Preservation Technology program is designed to introduce students to the latest 3D technology and demonstrate how it can be used to preserve historic buildings, landscapes and archaeological sites in our community. Students develop technological skills that can be applied in a wide range of career fields, including historic preservation, archaeology, computer science, architectural design, and engineering. Upon completion of the program they will have significant hands-on experience using industry-leading photogrammetry and 3D modeling software and overall improved computer literacy.

Interns are typically high school or college students, but anyone over 16 may apply. 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

Students involved in this program assist the Fairfield Foundation's Digital Curator in developing interactive 3D models of the architectural ruins at Fairfield Plantation, a 17th-century archaeological site in Gloucester, Virginia. They learn how to operate a drone, how to create 3D models in programs like Agisoft PhotoScan and Autodesk 3ds Max, and how to operate a 3D printer. Interns also have the opportunity to participate in archaeological fieldwork alongside Fairfield Foundation staff.

The Fairfield Foundation accepts interns throughout the year. Interns work primarily at the Center for Archaeology, Preservation and Education (CAPE) and Fairfield Plantation in Gloucester County. Transportation from the CAPE to Fairfield and other archaeological sites can be provided by Fairfield Foundation staff. Scheduling is flexible and based on student availability. Internships are not offered for college credit, but they 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, 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.

