

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 and particularly how the process of slavery reshaped the landscape.

We work closely with interns and volunteers to study the plantation landscape and all of its residents. This includes Native Americans who lived on the site for thousands of years prior to the settlement of Jamestown. Research also focuses on the enslaved and free African Americans living on and farming the property for nearly three centuries. Our interdisciplinary team of professional archaeologists, historians, and laboratory and material cultural specialists combines documentary research, archaeological fieldwork, scholarly and popular publications and exhibitions to promote a greater understanding of the site's history and its role in the 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 online at www.fairfieldfoundation.org.



Apply Now!

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

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Internship Program



Internship Info

Internships are built around the Fairfield Foundation's everyday activities including field/lab research and public outreach. Most interns engage in various aspects of archaeological study and gain experience with lab and field methods, along with archival and material culture research. Interns can pursue other interests such as history, oral history, architectural design, historic preservation, non-profit management, museum studies, grant writing, and related activities. We also provide opportunities for exposure to preservation technologies such as photogrammetry and 3D modeling.

Interns are typically high school or college students, often 16 or older. They work closely with staff and participate in a broad range of experiences. We recommend short-term (1-2 week) introductory internships for first-timers. Advanced students looking at career options or for-credit projects are encouraged to contact us to craft research-oriented internships that are designed to explore specific historic, academic, or methodological interests.



The Fairfield Foundation is committed to fostering a more inclusive history of our area by exploring the lives of Indigenous and African American communities at Fairfield. We are also committed to creating an inclusive, diverse, equitable and supportive environment for all interns, regardless of ethnicity, gender, faith, age, or ability.

Program Guidelines

Internships are scheduled primarily between mid-May and mid-August, although we accept interns throughout the year. Interns work primarily at the Fairfield archaeological site and the Center for Archaeology, Preservation and Education in Gloucester, Virginia. Scheduling is based on availability. Housing is the responsibility of each intern, although host families may be available. Transportation between lodging and the sites/lab may also be available. All equipment is provided, though applicants should bring their own personal gear (gloves, water bottle, sunscreen, etc.).

Cost: \$175 per week, due after internship dates are selected.

Financial Assistance: Need-based scholarships are available to cover costs (see application form for more information). *Application* forms can be found on line at www.fairfieldfoundation.org/internships.

Expectations

Interns work alongside Fairfield staff for the duration of an 8-hour work day/5-day work week, although schedules can vary. Opportunities are available to participate in additional work, including lab nights and dig weekends. Interns may work in hot and humid conditions, need to carry heavy buckets (approx. 40lbs), and work within a physically demanding environment. Interns are expected to assist with our public archaeology program, work with school groups and other volunteers/interns, and will 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 share their experience on our social media outlets and blog.

