



EXCHANGE PLACE JUNIOR APPRENTICES

UNPLUG INTO THE PAST



WHAT IS A JUNIOR APPRENTICE?

A Junior Apprentice (JA) is a young individual, age 12-18, with a passion for history and a commitment to community service. JAs meet regularly to learn about regional history and traditional crafts and skills associated with rural early American and Appalachian life. JAs also volunteer for special events and festivals and assist with projects at Exchange Place Historic Site. JAs maturely and enthusiastically represent Exchange Place to the public.

JAs meet about once a month, usually for a couple of hours on a Thursday afternoon or on Saturdays for special workshops and project workdays. Meeting activities may include learning about Exchange Place or local history; instruction in traditional skills such as open-hearth cooking, sewing, and blacksmithing; working in the garden and tending the animals; and preparing for festivals. In most cases, meetings will occur at Exchange Place, but occasional off-site field trips may also be scheduled. Parents are always encouraged, but not required, to attend meetings (unless otherwise specified). As knowledge of Exchange Place history and comfort with heritage skills is a “building-block” process, regular attendance and participation is crucial. JA activities often center around preparing for yearly festivals: Spring Garden Fair, which is always the last weekend in April; Farm Fest, which occurs during Kingsport Fun Fest; Fall Folk Arts Festival, which is always the last weekend in September; and Christmas in the Country, which is always the first Saturday in December. A workday/workshop is typically scheduled the Saturday before each of these events.

FEES/REQUIREMENTS: There is a one-time \$50 entrance fee for the program, which covers the cost of resource materials and a t-shirt. Occasionally there will be additional fees for special workshops. JAs and their families are also expected to volunteer on a regular basis both during public events and “behind the scenes” for weeding and garden maintenance.

ADMISSION: The number of JAs is intentionally kept small (around 12-16), and some years there will be no openings for new members. The minimum age for a JA is 12, though on occasion, a student under age 12 will be accepted into the program if he/she is particularly mature, has an older sibling in the program, and/or has a parent who is willing to accompany him/her at meetings.

New JAs are officially admitted into the program at the beginning of each school year. Orientation, typically offered in August, is required for admittance.

Applications will be available on the Exchange Place website at the beginning of the calendar year (January or February). Students interested in applying for the program are strongly encouraged to attend Exchange Place events to meet the JAs and learn more about what they do.

For more information about the Junior Apprentice program,
visit the Exchange Place website at:

www.exchangeplace.info/junior-apprentice

or

contact Heather Gilreath (JA coordinator) at:

423-753-2717

hrgoo@alumni.wfu.edu

 EXCHANGE PLACE 
LIVING HISTORY FARM AND MUSEUM
KINGSPORT, TN

Exchange Place is a non-profit, all-volunteer run living history farm whose mission is to preserve and interpret the heritage of mid-nineteenth century farm life in Northeast Tennessee.

www.exchangeplace.info
423-288-6071