

# Junior History @ Seton Shrine Interpreter Training Program

2020-21 Application

Do your kids have a lively imagination and an interest in history? Do you want to give them skills and knowledge that they will carry with them throughout their entire lives? The Seton Shrine is happy to invite your family to be part of its Junior History Interpreter training program. It is a two-level training program and upon completion of both levels, the youth will officially be classified as a Junior History Interpreter Volunteer. At this time, the training program is intended for girls, grades 4-12.

## What will my child learn?

- Public speaking techniques

*This program is designed to build participants' confidence in addressing live audiences and help them develop verbal communication skills that will benefit them their entire lives. These include enunciation, projection, eye contact, organization of thought/content, and memorization.*

- 19<sup>th</sup> century living and life skills

*The lessons and workshops will include activities like children's pastimes, education, sewing and weaving, penmanship, domestic chores as well as creating and dressing in period clothing.*

- History Interpretation techniques

*Participants will become part of the Shrine's history interpreters, learning alongside seasoned Shrine Interpreters. As the year progresses, participants will learn to portray 19<sup>th</sup> century St. Joseph's Academy students as first-person interpreters or "living historians".*

- In-depth history of Mother Seton, her home, and school

*By learning the history and legacy of Mother Seton as well as the details of daily life in her time, we hope participants will develop an affinity for Elizabeth Ann Seton and connect her life and legacy to their own life.*

- Basic professional hospitality skills

*Participants will learn to work as part of a team in a museum and historic site, and learn to show respect, courtesy, and hospitality to visitors.*

## What does it mean to "interpret" history?

Living history is an interpretive tool used at the Seton Shrine to tell the history and story of Mother Seton and the early Sisters of Charity.

Participants will have interchangeable opportunities to employ the three concepts of interpretation:

- **First-person interpretation** is role-playing a person from the past by authentically dressing and speaking as if she is now that person of the past, ignoring present day indicators. Participants will

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learn to employ a combination of techniques to interact with the visitors without breaking character.

- **Second-person interpretation** is a form of participation of hands-on activities in conjunction with first- or third-person interpretation.
- **Third-person interpretation** speaks informatively and demonstratively about the past; yet, from a present-day perspective. A third-person interpreter can be in modern clothing or in period clothing.

## Who are the Mentors?

The Seton Shrine's team of interpreters will serve as mentors in the Junior History Interpreter Program. Each has a background in historical interpretation, education, museum studies and/or other related fields, and have achieved certification in VIRTUS Safe Environment Training.

## What commitment is required?

**Dates:** September 17, 2021 – August 31, 2022 for both Levels

**Fee\*:** \$30 per month September – August

*\$10 discount per additional child; fifth child is free.*

**Time:** One Year Commitment because of the training and costuming involved.

- Participants are expected to invest themselves in the program. Youth(s) *and parents* should be motivated and committed.
- Instructional Practicum with a Shrine interpreter totaling at least 8 hours per month coinciding with on-site programs.
- Attendance at one Class per month September – November; February – April (duration 60-90 minutes; schedule Third Friday)
- One Workshop per month (duration 3 hours; schedule Third Saturday select months)
- Capstone Experiences (commitment details shared at interview):
  - Level One – Candlelight Evening Tours (first week of December; Saturday to following Sunday)
  - Level Two – St. Joseph's Valley Days (first weekend of May; Friday, Saturday & Sunday)
  - All – Annual Birthday Celebration (weekend closest to Mother Seton's birthday in August)

## How does one sign up?

Enrollment to the training program is limited to 12 participants. To apply, complete the attached form and paragraph, and submit it to Mrs. Bridgett Bassler, Education Programs Manager, at [bridgett.bassler@setonshrine.org](mailto:bridgett.bassler@setonshrine.org). Applicants and their parents will be invited to an informal interview with Mrs. Bassler after which a decision regarding acceptance will be made.

Enrollment is Open June 1, 2021 until August 31, 2021

Official Start Date is September 17, 2021

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To be considered for an interview this form must be completed along with a paragraph in handwriting form (please do not type).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Dress Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Special notes:

1. Hobbies (including sports and/or clubs in which you participate)

2. Which of the following things sound interesting (circle all that apply):

Historic Games	Historic Costuming	Herbs	Embroidery/CrossStitch
Gardening	Knitting/Crocheting	Crafts	Letter Writing
Reading	Music	Dance	Journaling
Baking	Living like the Past	Learning another Language	Public Speaking

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## 3. Essay

Pick any time and place in history and pretend that you live in that time period that is at least 75 years distant from 2020 (Examples: 1776 Colonial Virginia, 1864 Gettysburg, late 19<sup>th</sup> century one-room schoolhouse, 1936 Olympics). Using your best penmanship (handwriting), write a diary entry of 150-200 words describing your impression of your period life with details that is historically appropriate. Focus of what you may have done recently (chore, trip, family engagement), who you may have interacted and your impression of the story. Make sure what you are writing about connects with the history of the time period and place you have chosen. *\*Note: this essay instruction is comprised of 106 words.*