

**Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
Williamsburg, Virginia  
Apprentice Tailor – Historic Trades**

**PRIMARY FUNCTION:**

The primary function of the apprentice tailor is to rediscover, learn and preserve the varied trade skills of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century tailor, and interpret those skills to the public, both orally and written. The apprentice must become proficient in these skills so that he/she can teach future apprentices, insuring the trade is perpetuated

**JOB DUTIES:**

Learns and develops proficiency in the skills of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century tailoring trade. Increases knowledge in each skill area and uses information to expand interpretation to the guests, gained through completing work assignments outlined in the Tailoring Trade Skills Curriculum.

Researches available information on the trade and practitioners of the trade; works with representatives of the department (i.e., master of the shop, journeymen) and representatives of other departments (i.e., research) in developing recommendations on new and/or varied interpretive programs. Trains and provides work direction for historic trades interpreters.

Works on trade projects to refine and practice skills as assigned by the journeyman/supervisor or master of the shop.

Provides in-depth interpretations on the trade, its history, and its products and services in the community, region, and the world; the technology, processes, skills organization and working environment of the trade; the lives and times of those who pursued the trade; the evolution of the trade; relationships between trades, etc., with emphasis on the 1607-1781 time period to a variety of audiences in a variety of settings.

Assists with in-depth seminars, workshops, and/or forums dealing with the trade.

Gives presentations on research as appropriate.

Follows safety and security procedures established for the site, tools, materials, and equipment.

Ensures that the safety and security procedures are followed in the absence of the master and journeyman.

Represents the trade on departmental, divisional, and Foundation committees.

Instructs other Foundation employees on the history of the trade and in ways to interpret the trade skills and its products.

## **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

Fundamental knowledge of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century tailoring trade with emphasis on techniques and history; ability to clearly interpret historical information to the public; ability to train interpretive personnel in trade-related techniques; ability to conduct in-depth research into the trade and present results in an effective manner, oral and written – generally gained through a high school degree/G.E.D., plus three years progressive experience working with the trade; previous public contact experience (similar to that gained working in a living history museum). Must provide examples of trade work and be able to demonstrate work that shows hand/eye coordination and familiarity with detail work. Must be able to do strenuous physical work in all weather conditions. Must be able to commit to multi-level apprentice training program; must be able to work a flexible schedule; including evenings, weekends, and holidays.

## **(OPTIONAL) PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

Four-year degree in American History or on subject matter relating to the tailoring or textile trades. Previous living history museum experience; previous work leadership or supervisory responsibilities; familiarity with the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Trades program.

## **JOB RELATED PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Must be able to sit cross-legged for prolonged periods.
2. Must stand for prolonged periods.
3. Must be able to work in close proximity to a fire.
4. Must be able to lift up to 50 lbs. at a time.
5. Must be able to perform sewing, cutting, and other repetitive motions for prolonged periods.
6. Must be able to work out-of-doors.
7. Must be able to perform job duties in extreme hot and cold weather

***Be Part of the Story!***

***See full requirements and apply online at:***

[www.History.org/careers](http://www.History.org/careers)

Questions? (757) 220-7713

**Colonial Williamsburg supports a drug- and alcohol-free workplace.**

**AA/EOE**