

Volunteer FAQs

1. What is a Building Interpreter?

Building Interpreters are adult volunteers that interact with visitors and school groups by providing historical building information and tours. Volunteers may choose to wear period appropriate clothing or volunteer attire; with the exception of School House that requires costuming for the first-person interpretation and Blacksmith that requires specific clothing for safety reasons.

2. What is a History Connector?

History Connectors are comprised of non-costumed teens and adults that provide volunteer service in one or more of the following areas: engage the public in hands-on activities at stations on the grounds, assist with Camp Naper, and other specialty public programs.

3. What is a Junior Interpreter?

Junior Interpreters engage in activities typical of 19th century children and interact with the public at various locations throughout the grounds. Volunteers will provide their own appropriate personal historic costuming.

4. What is the time commitment for a Building Interpreter or History Connector?

There are two commitment options: Two (3.5 hour) shifts per month, weekday or weekend, April through October OR Four (3.5 hour) shifts per month, weekday or weekend, June through August. Additional volunteer opportunities are available for school programs during our winter season, November through March. Weekday shifts for teen volunteers **may be** available. Our greatest need is on the weekend.

5. What is the time commitment for a Junior Interpreter?

Juniors volunteer 3 hours once a month in April, May, September and October; twice a month in June through August. Weekend and weekday shifts are usually available.

6. Is there training? How will I know what to say?

Volunteers at Naper Settlement are required to attend training on visitor engagement, building tours, and/or living history.

7. How can I obtain a record of my volunteer hours as an Interpreter?

Please include within your request to us:

- Date range
- Address of where the record should be sent
- Any other information needed such as a computer print-out of hours, letter of recommendation

History Connectors / Building Interpreters - Please contact the Education Department at nsteenadult@naperville.il.us for a record of your volunteer hours. Also, the educators can complete a community service verification form on your behalf when you come in to volunteer.

Junior Interpreters – Please contact the Education Department at nsjuniors@naperville.il.us

8. Where can I obtain an appropriate costume for volunteering as a Junior or Building Interpreter?

Costuming guidance is provided to our volunteers during training. All costumes must be approved before purchase. Some clothing and patterns can be purchased online. If you need to sew your costume, Naper Settlement has a pattern lending library available for your use (certain restrictions apply, please see a Museum Educator for details).

- Length of Loan: Three (3) days
- Payment: A deposit of \$30.00 per pattern must be made upon rental of a pattern. (i.e. one pattern = \$30, two patterns = \$60, etc.)
- Deposit Information: Checks or credit cards will be accepted for deposit. Your deposit will be returned in full if the pattern(s) are returned in their original condition.
- Late Fees: If the pattern is not returned by the deadline, a \$5.00 per day late fee will apply. The deposit provided will not be returned until the late fee has been settled. We have many volunteers waiting to use a limited number of patterns; therefore, we must have them returned in a timely manner.