

The McFaddin-Ward House Museum
Junior Interpreter Program
DEADLINE FOR 2009 APPLICATIONS - MAY 16, 2009

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Started in 1996, the Junior Interpreter Program provides area teens the opportunity to learn how to give public tours and to experience the inner workings of a museum. In exchange for the no-fee course and class materials, JI graduates are expected to volunteer several times a year with special events. Once graduated from the summer training program, these young people are eligible to help with special events, assist in children's activities, and from time to time give special tours.

Qualifications:

- Minimum age — 13 years
- Interest in history
- Express a desire to work with the public
- Pledge to volunteer at the museum for at least one year
- Respect for others and for property
- Have a good attitude
- Often, the Social Studies teachers recommend the students.

Benefits to being a JI:

- Accumulate volunteer hours for school or college applications
- Participate in a museum organization
- Receive a MWH shirt
- Be awarded prizes for earned volunteer hours,
and have lots of fun!

How to apply:

Fill out the Junior Interpreter Application & return before the deadline to:
McFaddin-Ward House Education Department
725 Third Street
Beaumont, TX 77701

Please note:

Training is limited to 12 participants per year.
Chosen applicants are notified by May 30, 2009.
Training begins mid-June and runs for 5 weeks.

The McFaddin-Ward House Museum

Junior Interpreter Fact Sheet

Purpose: The junior interpreter program began in 1996 under the direction of the museum's education department. The junior interpreter program gives teenagers a positive experience at the McFaddin-Ward House, inspiring them to be lifelong consumers of culture and museum advocates. Through service to the museum, junior interpreters (JIs) learn life and leadership skills, including communication, historical research, and customer service.

Training: First year JIs (JI1s) are trained to give guided tours of the 2nd and 3rd floors of the main house and of the carriage house. They attend five training sessions during the months of June and July. Second-year JIs (JI2s) also attend five training sessions, held in June and July. They receive more detailed information about the museum and its collections. Veteran JIs have completed formal training but continue to attend JI functions and expand their knowledge. Training involves printed material, lectures, slide shows, videos, and other activities provided by the McFaddin-Ward House staff. For completion of the program, JI1s are required to sign a pledge and turn in a permission form. Both JI1s and JI2s are required to give a practice tour to a staff member and guide at least one group of visitors utilizing their training. All JIs assist museum staff by giving tours of the museum on assigned dates during the year and by assisting with other programming the museum offers. JIs are given the opportunity to attend special programs and field trips.

Junior Interpreter Guide Day: This event is scheduled **each July** at the end of the training period (Sat., July 19) to showcase JI skills. JI1s, JI2s, and JIVs give tours of the house, grounds, and carriage house. All JIs should be available for this event which is free and is marketed to the public through press releases, with a special invitation extended to families of JIs.

Dress: Junior interpreters may wear casual summer wear for training. JIs are given a McFaddin-Ward House shirt. For public events they may wear these with khaki pants or skirts of a length acceptable at public school. **They are also required to wear shoes like tennis shoes, loafers, or dress shoes (no flip-flops, platform sandals, or stiletto heels).** Also, extreme body ornaments, piercing beyond the ears, tattoos, or unusual hair colors (green, pink, etc.) are not allowed to be visible during tours.

Rules: Junior interpreters are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a mature manner, respecting each other, museum staff and property, and the public. The museum staff reserves the right to dismiss a JI for inappropriate conduct.

Miscellaneous Information: All classes are held in the **visitor center lecture hall at 1906 Calder**. **JIs may be dropped off and picked up there.**

Benefits: Meet new people. Learn about history, the museum, and the McFaddin family. Work with the public. Get a free shirt. Earn volunteer hours for school or college applications. Receive prizes for volunteer hours accumulated. Be a part of an organization. Have fun!

For more information, email jlinsley@mcfaddin-ward.org, or call the Education Department at (409) 832-1906.

This program is generously underwritten by the
Mamie McFaddin Ward Heritage Foundation.

The McFaddin-Ward House Museum
Junior Interpreter Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Age: _____ Birth Date: _____

(Note: Age minimum for applicants is 13 years old)

Emergency Contact (Name and Telephone Number): _____

Grade next fall: _____ School: _____

Hobbies/Interests/Clubs: _____

Why do you want to be a McFaddin-Ward House Junior Interpreter? _____

Have you visited the museum before? ____ Yes ____ No

Check all that apply:

I know someone who is already a Junior Interpreter ____ who? _____

I know someone who is an adult volunteer at McFaddin-Ward House ____ who? _____

I visited the museum when I was in the seventh grade ____ other grade ____

I visited the museum with my family ____

If chosen, will you be able and willing to volunteer during the school year for special weekend events and after-school programs? ____ Yes ____ No

Comments or questions about the program:

Return application to: McFaddin-Ward House, 725 Third Street, Beaumont TX 77701