

Summer Documentary Institute 2017

The 2017 Summer Documentary Institute at Appalshop's Appalachian Media Institute

We are excited to announce our 29th annual Summer Documentary Institute!

Since 1988, the Appalachian Media Institute has provided opportunities for young people from central Appalachia to explore their communities and develop their creative skills through the arts and media. Over the course of the summer youth explore the basics of video and audio production, view and discuss documentary media, and learn how to produce and distribute meaningful media about community issues and traditions.

2017 is a pivotal year for central Appalachia as we transition from the extraction of fossil fuels towards the building of a new regional economy. The 2017 Summer Documentary Institute will build upon AMI's tradition of innovative media training with our annual 8-week program that utilizes documentary storytelling as a means to explore, produce and share youth-led visions for central Appalachia's future. Youth interns will experience a broad range of workshops on media production, including podcasting, media campaign strategy, digital filmmaking, photography and web-based storytelling taught by regional artists.

About:

Since 1988, the Appalachian Media Institute has provided opportunities for young people from Central Appalachia to explore their communities and develop their creative skills through the arts and media.

This summer we will hold our 29th annual Summer Documentary Institute (SDI). Up to 10 applicants will be chosen from the region to work intensively with AMI and Appalshop staff. Over the course of the summer we will explore the basics of video and audio production, view and discuss documentary video, and learn how to produce and distribute meaningful media about community issues and traditions.

The documentary work produced during our summer institute has been seen by audiences from across the United States, and abroad. Some films have even been translated into other languages for international audiences, and many of these pieces have made a real difference in the dialogues and debates surrounding issues such as domestic violence, prejudice, drug abuse, and youth activism.

Working with AMI during the summer can be both a challenging and rewarding experience. It is important that you are interested in exploring your creativity through media making. You must 1) be a responsible AMI/Appalshop employee by upholding the policies and spirit of the program and organization and 2) be willing to learn from and share with others.

Since 1969, Appalshop has used media and the arts to work with communities to create positive social change; dispel cultural stereotypes; build opportunities for people to define their own history and culture; create a public space where people can come together to discuss their concerns; and find common ground and pursue solutions.

To learn more about AMI and Appalshop check out our website www.ami.appalshop or call Kate Fowler, at 606.633.0108.

Requirements:

AMI requirements are minimal. Simply, interns must be between ages 14 and 22 and capable of behaving, thriving, and interacting in a diverse and professional environment with a mature attitude. Prior experience with media is neither expected, nor required – only a creative mindset with a willingness to learn and do the work.

College credit:

In addition to SDI being a paid internship, eligible interns who are *at least* a Junior in high school have the opportunity to earn THREE college credit hours in video production through Southeast Community and Technical Colleges (SCTC). This opportunity comes as an added benefit for participants of the program, at no cost to the individual.

AMI Plan and Policies:

Program Length:

The program will run for eight weeks total, beginning on **June 1st** and ending on **July 23rd**. During this time we will be meeting **Monday through Friday**, from **9:30am to 5:30pm**, with an hour break each day for lunch. There will be two weekend trips to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania during the 8-week period. Occasionally, we will utilize days with team-building exercises devoted to activities or field trips. As with any other professional environment, evening work may be required to meet a production deadline. Because the Institute will demand your time and focus, other commitments during the week must be secondary to the program – including, but not limited to, other jobs, sports, classes, vacations, et cetera.

Payment:

All interns will receive a bi-weekly stipend for their work at a rate of \$320/week. This is taxable income. Interns are expected to arrive promptly each day prepared to work. Tardiness, absence, or lack of effort may result in suspension or proration of pay.

Transportation and Housing:

Transportation will be provided for those with need, typically by Appalshop staff, but occasionally from other interns or services such as LKLP. A *liability release* will be required of all accepted interns.

Interns living more than an hour away will be provided housing, with meals (excluding lunch) via the Appalshop Casa. An in-house supervisor will live on the property for the entirety of this program. As this location is also considered Appalshop property, all AMI/Appalshop policies will apply.

Policies:

Because AMI serves as a positive model for young people in the community, interns will not be allowed to use tobacco products, consume alcohol, or take unauthorized drugs on the premises of Appalshop or while you are working as an intern in the community.

Appalshop and AMI do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender identity, sexual preference, or disability. Interns will be held to the same standard.

AMI interns are considered employees and representatives of Appalshop. Failure to adhere to AMI/Appalshop policies or expectations may result in suspension of pay or dismissal from the program.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, feel free to contact Kate Fowler via email (kate@appalshop.org) or phone (606.633.0108).

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE TYPED IN STANDARD 12-POINT FONT
SINGLE-SPACED, ON A SEPARATE DOCUMENT**

Your application must include:

- your information
- all essay questions answered

- a letter of recommendation

Acceptable formats for digital submissions: *.doc, *.docx, *.odt, *.rtf

Your Information

Name:

Age:

Names of Parents, Guardian or Emergency Contact (if over 18):

Phone:

Home address:

Email:

What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

What schools, colleges or training programs have you attended?

What are your current plans for continuing your formal education?

Will you require lodging or transportation? If so, what will you need?

Note: Requirement of lodging or transportation WILL NOT affect potential of acceptance.

Essay Questions

While there is no set length requirement, we ask that you provide *at least* a short paragraph.

- 1.) Tell us a bit about YOU. What are your interests, hobbies, etc?
- 2.) Why do you want to be a part of AMI this summer?
- 3.) Why are you interested in video production and editing?
- 4.) Describe a documentary subject you would like to produce. Why?
- 5.) As a viewer, what are your favorite TV shows or movies? Any particular actors or directors that you follow?

Letters of Recommendation:

Ask one person (other than a relative or friend) to write a letter of recommendation for you. They should be a person who knows about your abilities, interests, and experience. Fill your name in on the blank line on the forms and provide one to your reference. If they have any questions encourage them to call Ben at Appalshop (606-633-0108).

Ask your reference to place their completed recommendation in an envelope. Ask them to seal it and sign their name on the seal. Collect the signed and sealed recommendation letter and include it in your completed application packet. Only completed applications (your information, essays and one recommendation letter) will be considered.

Appalachian Media Institute Recommendation Form

Reference Name:

Phone:

_____ is applying work as an intern with Appalshop's Appalachian Media Institute. The program is a challenging media-training program for young people. Over the summer, our interns learn how to create and share film and other media about important issues in their communities, as well as important leadership and work skills.

Please describe your relationship to the applicant and your perception of his or her potential as an intern in our program. It would also be helpful to hear how you think this young person could benefit from our program. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns about our program or this recommendation.

Thank you for your time.

Kate Fowler
Director, Appalachian Media Institute
kate@appalshop.org
606-633-0108

Applications are due at Appalshop by 5pm Monday, March 20th. Digital applications may be e-mailed to kate@appalshop.org. Physical applications may be hand delivered or sent to:

**AMI / Appalshop
ATTN: Kate
91 Madison Ave
Whitesburg, KY 41858
FAX: 606.633.1009**

You will receive a letter or phone call informing you of your application status by no later than Friday, March 24th. Personal interviews with finalist candidates will take place prior to a final decision. Interviews will take place April 22nd – May 7th and may be scheduled at your convenience. Final decisions will be made by no later than May 10th.