

Job Description: Apprentice—Saddle Maker

Title: Apprentice—Saddle Maker
Date: January 2020
Position Reports To: Master Saddle Maker
Status: Non-Exempt / Full-time

Summary:

To learn the saddle-making trade, under the guidance of the Master Saddle Maker, by performing a number of work assignments, learning the fundamentals of leather work, learning about the history of saddle-making, mastering the tools and machinery used, and learning how to interpret the trade to visitors of the Center of the West.

Job Duties:

- Learn all aspects of fundamental leather work including leather tannages, weights and uses, cutting, shaping, creasing, edges, dying, finishing, splitting, skiving, stitching, riveting, gluing, construction, and design.
- Learn all aspects of saddle making including history, horse fitting, rider fitting, design, balance, tree styles and variations, construction, and stitching (hand and machine).
- Learn and master the tools and machinery used in fine leatherworking including all hand tools, bench tools (splitter, skiver, lace cutter, and rivet/snap setter), machinery, knives, stitching horse, and drive punches.
- Learn leather stamping to include leather selection, learning tools and their uses, understanding pattern interpretation, design and development, recognize historical patterns and their significance in the artistic development.
- Learn about casing leather, geometric patterns, and floral patterns.
- Master all aspects of stamping leather goods to develop sufficient proficiency to achieve title of master.
- Learn the terminology and speaking skills to interpret the trade to visitors of the Center.
- Must dress the part of the period saddle maker.

Competencies:

- Desire and ability to attain the skill level of the best saddle makers.
- Excellence of character to produce only the best products.
- Ability to communicate information in a fun and informative manner.

Supervisory Responsibilities:

- None

Required Education and Experience:

- Some knowledge of horses and saddle is desirable.
- Demonstrated ability to work with hands.
- Understanding of basic leatherwork is a plus.
- Interest in saddle making history is a plus.
- High school diploma.

Other Duties:

- Please note this job description is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties, or responsibilities that are required of the employee for this job. Duties, responsibilities, and activities may change at any time with or without notice.

EEO Statement:

- Buffalo Bill Center of the West provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, age, disability, gender identity, results of genetic testing, or service in the military. Equal employment opportunity applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leave of absence, compensation, and training.