

Heritage Craft Workshop (Blacksmithing and more!)

General Description

This year will be the first year of an ongoing project that will help build a Blacksmith Shop at the proposed Heritage Centre that will carry on for generations. Traditional crafts have always been an important part of AlgomaTrad alongside music, dance and arts, but this project will enable us to develop our own curriculum and work towards more extensive programming in the future. With your help as a student at the camp, the Heritage Craft workshop offered this year will begin to provide the many tools that will be needed to make this blacksmith shop a reality. AlgomaTrad will supply the materials, knowledge and skill set – registrants will supply the willingness to learn and together we will build a centre that will keep the traditional crafts alive. So if you have ever wondered how things were made before the machine age, this is an opportunity to get some hands on experience, take away some knowledge and contribute to a great project.

Period 1 - YOU ARE THE APPRENTICE

Apprentices are the backbone of any traditional blacksmith shop. They performed many duties but mainly they worked at the anvil with the smith and supplied the extra hammer power needed to forge larger pieces. The main project for this time slot will be the forging of the many blacksmith tongs needed to operate a shop. All work will be directed by the smith while you provide the hammer power to shape the work. This is very interactive and a great morning workout.

Period 2 – BASIC TOOL MAKING

This workshop will be an introduction to blacksmithing and will provide you with a good working knowledge of how to recycle scrap steel into tools. In this workshop you get to be the blacksmith and forge the metal. This workshop will supply many of the smaller tools needed by the school.

Period 3 – THE WORKBENCH

This workshop will be an introduction to traditional woodworking using hand tools. It will teach you how to achieve the accuracy required to layout and cut some basic woodworking joints. Participants will be involved with all aspects of cutting, hand-planing and fitting the parts that make up a large cabinet maker's workbench.

PERIOD 4 - THE BLACKSMITH BELLOWS

The bellows supplies the air needed to heat up the coal in a blacksmith forge. This workshop will begin work on a full sized 2 stage blacksmith bellows for the school forge. This design will be based on the blacksmith bellows that was used by a local blacksmith from Richards Landing and is now part of the St Joe Island Museum collection.

Free period - TOOL MAINTENANCE

This time slot will be used to provide an introduction to hand tool restoration, maintenance and care. Learn to sharpen handsaws and chisels as well as bring back to life some of the tools that have been donated to the school. You are also invited to bring any tools you may have in your collection that you have questions about or would like to get working again.