

Position: Grant-Funded Assistant Site Supervisor (Archaeology)

Organization: Historic Germanna

Location: Orange County, VA

Type: Term 1 year, Full-Time (40 hours/week)

About Historic Germanna

Historic Germanna seeks to inspire understanding in the rich history and natural resources of Germanna through archaeology, education, genealogy, and preservation. Historic Germanna envisions a future where the Germanna region is recognized as a unique place that connects diverse stories through shared heritage and cultural and environmental significance, fostering a sense of belonging, learning, and inspiration for all.

Overview of Position:

Historic Germanna seeks a dedicated and passionate Archaeological Crew Chief/Supervisor to contribute to its ongoing research project, with a focus on African American and Indigenous archaeologies at Germanna's sites. This position, funded by a Virginia BIPOC Historic Preservation Grant, will aid in supervising excavations at the Germanna Sites.

Listed on the National Register, the "Enchanted Castle" is the early 18th century home for Alexander Spotswood in the years after he served as Lt. Governor for the Colony of Virginia. The mansion was built in the 1720s, on a portion of the earlier 5-sided fort that served as home for a group of German settlers who came to Virginia in 1714. The 2025 season will be spent continuing efforts examining the changing landscapes around Spotswood's home as well as delineating public buildings that made up the small community of Germanna nearby. Work will continue at the "Courthouse Site" – believed to be the location of the first Spotsylvania County Courthouse built in 1724.

The project seeks evidence of all the peoples of Germanna – the Manahoac and other Indigenous peoples, the British colonizers, German immigrants settled at Germanna in the 1710s, and of enslaved Africans who lived and worked in the community. While the project findings to date have been dominated by 18th century artifacts and features, there are pre-colonial, Civil War, and 19th-century farmstead components to the site as well.

Public outreach is a key component to the Germanna Archaeology program. Although access to the site is limited, we treat the site as a public archaeology site where field staff is expected to interact with visitors. "Open House" events are regularly scheduled as part of the season. In addition, participation in online postings (such as photo, video, blog, or webinar updates) has become an important part of public programming.

Germanna Archaeology's excavations have, typically, taken place over the summer months. Historic Germanna has partnered with Virginia Commonwealth University, hosting the VCU Field School. This will again be the case for the 2025 season. However, this position will help expand the season to 9-month of excavations. The remainder of the year term will be spent in processing field records, and preparations of end-of-season reports.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Undergraduate Degree in Anthropology, Anthropology, History or related field.
- At least one year's (full time) experience doing fieldwork.
- At least 3 months supervised field experience with North American archaeology.
- Demonstrated ability to carry research to completion.
- Ability to perform strenuous physical tasks in an outdoor setting in various weather conditions.
- Ability to maintain positive relationships with co-workers, the public, diverse communities, and other organizations.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Graduate work/degree in Anthropology/Archaeology from an accredited institution of higher education.'
- Experience with Historic Sites.
- Experience with African-American and/or Indigenous archaeology(s).
- Experience with Field Schools.
- Skills with GPS, GIS, or CAD.

Duties:

- Work closely with the site director to manage excavations at archaeological sites located on the Germanna Foundation's properties.
- Supervise, mentor, and instruct interns, volunteers, and students.
- Assist with administrative duties such as completing site forms, checking and maintaining site records, and maintaining a safe work environment.
- Excavate units and STPs alongside interns, volunteers, and students when necessary.
- Operate equipment such as a total station, GPS, and metal detector.
- Participate in public events and public outreach.
- Ensure that all archaeological work is ethical, responsible, and meets the highest standards of quality.

Compensation:

\$39,000 to 44,000 (depending on experience). Paid holidays, sick and annual leave.

We are looking for a March, 2025 start date.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled (consideration will begin March 5, 2025). Interested candidates should e-mail a resume and cover letter to Dr. Eric Larsen, Director of Archaeology, at elarsen@germanna.org.