



Historic Rock Ford
LANCASTER, PA

Warm Hearth Committee at Historic Rock Ford

The Warm Hearth Committee (WHC) is an auxiliary group of Historic Rock Ford (HRF) made up of volunteer interpreters who specialize in the practice and demonstration of hearth cooking techniques and receipts in use during the Hand period of residence.

The committee mission is to enhance the educational value of the Rock Ford house tour by accurately portraying to the visiting public likely activities of a pre-1805 kitchen. Volunteers do not need hearth cooking experience but will learn from others as they participate.



As a volunteer at Historic Rock Ford, the committee operates under these guidelines:

- Attend and participate in the kitchen on regularly scheduled Sundays, one time a month, generally the third Sunday from 1 pm-4 pm from April-October when the house is open, as well as several special events during the year. WHC provides hearth cooks during full day school group tours, usually in May. A lesson plan with ideas and props is available to use.

Other months of the year are used to practice techniques and receipts.

Monthly emails will organize the menu between members.

- Receive a fire and kitchen safety manual, as well as a description and care of frequently used cooking implements at the fire. All volunteers must follow the safety rules.

- Display and use only period appropriate equipment, techniques, receipts and ingredients when demonstrating during a house tour. Seasonal ingredients will be used. HRF will provide appropriate cooking equipment and WHC members will direct volunteers to sources for period receipts. Volunteers provide the ingredients for the dish they prepare.

- Follow HRF guidelines regarding appropriate period dress. Volunteers may borrow clothing from Rock Ford or provide their own. Patterns are available as needed.

- Become familiar with the basic Historic Rock Ford tour to answer general questions about Edward Hand and meal times, foods presented in that time period, food ties to the city of Lancaster. A tour interpreter will come into the kitchen to give information about special features in the kitchen. Once the tour is complete, hearth cooks may explain the dishes made, why they might be served and any interesting facts about the food or preparation.

- Volunteers will be encouraged to become members of Historic Rock Ford to perpetuate the vision and Warm Hearth Committee mission.