



Smithsonian Affiliations Intern Partnership Program: Another successful collaboration!

The [Affiliations Intern Partnership Program](#) is much more than a simple internship at the Smithsonian during the summer. “The Affiliations internship program gave me the opportunity to see the world through the various exhibits and events that are going on at the Smithsonian Institution and in D.C.,” said Lori Hagadorn, Smithsonian Affiliations 2009 intern partner. The program gives students in Affiliate communities the opportunity to build professional relationships and learn the benefits of successful collaboration with the Smithsonian and bring it all back to share with their own neighborhoods.

So what was Lori up to this summer? Coming from [Michigan State University Museum](#), a Smithsonian Affiliate in East Lansing, Michigan, Lori spent over 10 weeks helping the [Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage](#) with the 2009 [Smithsonian Folklife Festival](#) on the National Mall.

Getting an early start to her internship, Lori began working at CFCH in the middle of May in order to help organize the festival before its June start date. Assigned to the Wales Smithsonian Cymru section of the festival, Lori’s tasks ranged from writing extended bios for participants to creating a performance schedule for one of the six stages. Once the festival began, Lori worked behind-the-scenes to ensure tents were properly set up before the festival opened and properly secured when the festival closed each night. She also acted as hostess for Welsh performers to make certain they were on schedule and had everything they needed. “During the day, I would help participants with whatever they needed, which ranged from moving drums from one stage to the next, getting more water, and relieving them so they could have a break,” said Lori.

Another important task during festival days was answering visitor questions about the different tents. Lori had to be well-informed about each tent’s theme in order to answer questions depending on which tent she was assigned to during the day. But this is only the first part of Lori’s intern partnership with the Smithsonian. Next, she goes back to MSU Museum where she’ll use the skills she learned at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival towards planning and execution of the Great Lakes Folk Festival in August.

Interested in recommending one of your interns? [Click here](#) for a program overview and application requirements. The deadline to recommend candidates for the summer 2010 Intern Partnership Program is January 15, 2010. For more information or if you have questions about the Affiliations Intern Partnership Program, contact Elizabeth Bugbee, BugbeeE@si.edu, (202) 633.5304

