



Indiana Humanities Campfires

Call for Scholars/Facilitators

Due: January 31, 2024

What is Campfires?

Campfires is an Indiana Humanities program that pairs nature and literature to ignite conversations about Indiana's environment and future. During a Campfires event, a humanities scholar leads attendees through a special Indiana landscape, stopping along the way to read aloud the words of significant environmental writers. A naturalist joins us to help identify ecological and geological features of the site. We conclude our treks with a hearty discussion over food and drink around a campfire, forging deep connections between nature, literature, place and stewardship.

On these treks, Hoosiers will have multiple opportunities to interrogate their own beliefs and values as they relate to stewardship of their Indiana landscapes. These activities will create or deepen participants' commitment to environmental stewardship and advocacy, ultimately leading to improved ecological health of the state.

Four key questions guide our Campfires series:

- What has been the role of outstanding literature, poetry and journalism in shaping the public's understanding our relationship to nature and the ideas of stewardship and conservation?
- How have Indiana authors expressed their relationship to the natural world and helped to define a sense of place and character in the Hoosier state?
- To what extent is the environment an ecological and cultural connector of Hoosiers with the potential to shape a civic body with a shared purpose of conservation?
- How can environmental literature and poetry help Hoosiers create or deepen connections to our natural world today?

Outings will vary in terms of length, degree of difficulty, and readings. We also plan to conduct at least three treks as paddling trips, rather than hikes/walks. Programs will take place between March and early November.

Who are we looking for?

Indiana Humanities seeks humanities scholar-facilitators to lead each outing and facilitate conversation of the texts, themes and big ideas of the Campfires initiative. The success of each conversation is highly dependent on the skill of the scholar-facilitator to draw in multiple voices to the discussion, inspire deep thinking and reflection on the texts and help participants draw connections between literature, place and Indiana's future.

The ideal scholar-facilitator:

- Sees the "big picture" of Campfires and shares Indiana Humanities' vision for open-ended, thoughtful discussion of project themes.
- Is enthusiastic about sharing environmental literature with the general public outside of academic spaces.
- Is passionate about Indiana and its future—and sees how the humanities can make a difference in our state.
- Is a great listener, not just a great talker.

- Is open to learning new techniques and best practices for facilitating text-based discussions.
- Has expertise that they bring to the conversation. This expertise could be advanced training, such as an M.A. or Ph.D. in a humanities field such as literature, history, cultural studies, philosophy, or religious studies. However, we welcome applications from individuals who may have other relevant expertise as artists, culture bearers, or engaged community members, like librarians, writers, educators and religious leaders.
- Is physically able to lead a group of 20-30 in moderately active outdoor activities such as hiking or kayaking. We will work to match facilitators to mode and trail difficulty, but expect at the very least a one-mile route of moderate difficulty.
- Responds to email communication in a timely manner.

Experience leading text-based conversations in general public settings is certainly preferred but not required. Advanced study in a field related to environmental humanities and/or Indiana Studies is a plus.

Indiana Humanities will take care of event registration and organizing the logistics of each event. Scholar-facilitators put together a discussion plan and select texts, with final approval by Indiana Humanities.

What's in it for the scholar-facilitator?

- \$500 honorarium + mileage per outing.
- Learn public humanities skills, including best practices for leading successful text-based conversations with general public audiences.
- Be a part of a statewide cohort of engaged humanities scholars leading important discussions about Indiana's future.
- Opportunity to connect your scholarship and practice to regional and statewide conservation efforts.

How do I apply?

- Send a cover letter and CV/resume to Megan Telligman, director of programs at Indiana Humanities. In your cover letter, be sure to include why you're passionate about our Indiana environment and how the project fits with your career goals and interests. Be sure to describe any experience you've had leading humanities discussions with general public audiences. If you're especially passionate about a particular Hoosier landscape and/or environmental writer, do tell! If you prefer to share this information via a phone conversation, reach out to Megan via email to find a time.
- Applications will be accepted through **Jan. 31, 2024** for programs beginning in April of 2024. Candidates may be contacted to learn more about their interest in the project.
- Former Campfires scholars need not apply, but please do feel free to reach out and let us know you're interested in leading a trek this year!

Questions? Ideas?

- Contact Megan Telligman (mtelligman@indianahumanities.org / 317.616.9409) or Sam Opsahl (opsahl@indianahumanities.org).