



February 24, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -  
West Springfield, MA**

**More Info:**

Sarah Platanitis  
Education & Communication Specialist  
413-205-5041

**“BASICS OF BLACKSMITHING” NOW ENROLLING AT STOROWTON VILLAGE MUSEUM**

Registration is now open for “Basics for Blacksmithing,” an educational class at Storowton Village Museum. The class is an introduction to the craft of metalworking and will be taught in the museum’s Clark Blacksmith Shop, a building that dates back to 1853.

The “Basics of Blacksmithing” course will cover fundamental smithing skills such as tapering, spreading, bending, scrolling and shouldering — techniques present in all levels of blacksmithing, whether creating simple hooks or more complicated projects. Students will also understand shop safety, the differences of working at coal and gas forges, and the working pace of a smith.

Willow Zietman, an artist blacksmith and blacksmithing instructor from Lunenburg, Mass., will teach students the basics of heating and shaping steel. Trained at Pioneer Village in Salem, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine, and at Penland School of Crafts in Spruce Pine, North Carolina, she currently teaches classes at Prospect Hill Forge in Waltham and The Steel Yard in Providence, Rhode Island. Zietman has also demonstrated the trade at events such as the New England Blacksmiths Fall Meet and Providence’s PVDFFEST.

“Willow is an accomplished smith who has a non-traditional approach to teaching others about the traditional trade of working with iron,” said Museum Director Jessica K. Fontaine. “We’re lucky to have her as an instructor for one of the most popular educational opportunities here at the Village.”

“Basics of Blacksmithing” will take place Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 9:30, March 12 - April 30, 2020. The maximum class size is four students and no previous experience is necessary to enroll in this class. Tools and leather aprons will be provided for use and metal will be included for practice and exercises. The cost for this class is \$385 with proceeds to benefit the museum’s educational programs.

Online sign-ups are open until March 11, or until the class is full. After that time, interested students will be put on a waitlist for future blacksmithing classes at the museum. To learn more and to register, call 413-205-5051 or visit [storowtonvillage.com](http://storowtonvillage.com).

-30-

**ABOUT STOROWTON VILLAGE MUSEUM**

Storowton Village Museum, an educational arm of Eastern States Exposition (501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization) and located on its grounds in West Springfield, Mass., presents hands-on school programs and guided tours of its historic buildings throughout the year as well as seasonal 19th century-themed events. For more information, visit [storowtonvillage.com](http://storowtonvillage.com) or call 413-205-5051.