



Nisei Trials: 80 Years Undergraduate Intern Summer 2024

Background

In 1942, the War Relocation Authority (WRA) forcibly removed 125,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast, confining them in concentration camps behind barbed wire. Minidoka, located in Idaho, confined over 13,000 people during World War II. In 1943, the WRA forced incarcerated to answer the “loyalty questionnaire,” which asked questions to determine their “loyalty.” After receiving answers to the “loyalty questionnaire,” the U.S. Armed Forces accepted Japanese American volunteers, and citizens could apply to leave the concentration camps.

In early 1944, the War Department issued draft notices for incarcerated Japanese Americans. From the start, men refused. Thirty-seven citizens incarcerated at Minidoka refused to show up to their physicals. Police arrested the draft resisters, and the men were tried in a federal court. The resisters were sentenced to up to 3.5 years at McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary.

80th Anniversary Programming

Nisei Trials: 80 Years programming incorporates history, arts, ethics, and jurisprudence related to the Japanese American resisters who sought to uphold democratic ideals through civil disobedience. The resisters were ostracized by others, including their own communities. Only recently has the courage of the resisters been recognized. The goal of *Nisei Trials: 80 Years* is to educate about the unconstitutional incarceration of Japanese Americans, the story of the Japanese American resisters, and how they fought for American values through their actions, applying these lessons to the present day.

Job Description

This internship will take place over the course of twelve weeks for a total of 135 hours beginning in June. The intern will learn about the history of the draft resisters by 1) learning about the history of Minidoka, Japanese American incarceration, and draft resistance, 2) assisting with public programs, including the *Nisei Trials* distinguished lecture series and exhibit and the *Nisei Paradox* stage production, and 3) reflecting on their internship experience. This position will also include other duties as assigned by the Program and Outreach Manager.

Qualifications

- Currently enrolled undergraduate college student, preferably located in Idaho.
- Demonstrated interest in civil liberties and the Japanese American incarceration experience.
- Excellent written and verbal communication.
- Knowledge of historical research processes.
- Attention to detail and willingness to learn.
- Demonstrated ability to foster an atmosphere of diversity and inclusion consistent with the Friends of Minidoka's aims.
- Must pass a criminal background check.

Responsibilities

- Bi-weekly meeting with Program and Outreach Manager.
- Learn about Japanese American history.
- Assist with public programming related to *Nisei Trials: 80 Years*.
- Attend and participate in one public program related to *Nisei Trials: 80 Years*.
- Create materials for *Nisei Trials: 80 Years*.
- Reflect on the internship experience.

Orientation

- Meet with Friends of Minidoka Program and Outreach Manager.
 - Complete administrative paperwork
- Training includes:
 - Historical background on the Japanese American experience
 - Research training
 - Program and public history training

Supervision

- Reports to Friends of Minidoka Program and Outreach Manager.
- Reports to Friends of Minidoka Executive Director for administrative issues.

Physical requirements and working conditions

- Work is performed primarily indoors and may involve sitting for long periods of time.
- Ability to access a computer, laptop, or mobile device capable of video conferencing and internet access for research.

Application

- Must be a current undergraduate student, preferably in Idaho.

- Email the completed [application](#) and a resume by **April 29, 2024** to info@minidoka.org and camille@minidoka.org.

Friends of Minidoka does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, the appointment to and termination from its Board of Directors, hiring and firing of staff or contractors, selection of volunteers, selection of vendors, and providing of services.

Friends of Minidoka is an equal opportunity employer. We shall not discriminate and will not discriminate in employment, recruitment, Board membership, advertisements for employment, compensation, termination, upgrading, promotions, and other conditions of employment against any employee or job applicant on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, or for any other discriminatory reason.