Apprenticeship Program Application

Application Deadline: April 1
For applicants ages 18–30

The MMC Apprenticeship Program provides practical experience for emerging musicians interested in teaching traditional bluegrass and developing as mentors and community leaders. Apprentices shadow experienced instructors, assist with instruction, and develop their teaching skills through guided practice and feedback. Their camp schedule centers on the apprenticeship rather than attending classes as students.

Selected apprentices receive a **partial tuition scholarship**, with mentorship included at no additional charge. Scholarship details, responsibilities, schedules, and any remaining costs will be provided in writing before acceptance.

Applicant's Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State/Province:** _____

ZIP/Postal Code: _____ **Country:** _____

Primary Instrument:

☐ Mandolin ☐ Banjo ☐ Fiddle ☐ Guitar ☐ Upright Bass

Other instruments played and/or vocal experience:

Application Questions

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet. Short, thoughtful responses are welcome; a paragraph per question is generally sufficient. Bullet points may be used to describe your experience.

1. Tell us about your musical background.
How long have you played your primary instrument? Describe your experience with traditional bluegrass and Bill Monroe's music.

2. Who have you studied with, and how have you learned?
Include private teachers, mentors or master musicians, camps, workshops, school programs, and independent learning. Identify the instruments or subjects studied and approximately how long you worked with each teacher or mentor.

3. Describe your teaching or mentoring experience.
Include where you have taught, for how long, which instruments or subjects you taught, and the ages or experience levels of your learners. Have you taught independently, assisted an instructor, or worked under a mentor's guidance?

Informal experience counts, too—such as helping a bandmate learn a part, explaining a tune, or supporting a newer player in a jam. Previous formal teaching experience is not required.

4. Tell us about a time you helped someone learn something musical.
What were you helping them understand? How did you explain or demonstrate it? What did you learn about teaching from that experience?

5. What do you hope to learn through this apprenticeship?
Identify two or three teaching skills you would like to develop. If you have a preferred MMC instructor you would like to shadow, tell us who and why. Mentor assignments depend on availability and the best fit for the apprenticeship.

6. Describe a time you took responsibility or helped a group work together.
Your example may come from music, school, employment, volunteering, or another community activity. What did you do, and what did you learn?

7. What are your goals in music, and how might others benefit from what you learn at MMC?
Tell us how this apprenticeship fits your teaching, educational, professional, or community goals. Include a specific way you hope to share your learning or contribute to the bluegrass community.

Supporting Materials

8. Performance video
Please provide a link to a video of yourself performing during the past year, either solo or with a group. If performing with others, identify yourself and your instrument. A simple phone recording is welcome.

Video link: _____

9. Teaching video, if available
Please include a link to a video of yourself teaching or explaining a musical idea. Professional production is unnecessary. A teaching video is encouraged but not required.

Video link: _____

10. Letter of recommendation and additional materials
Please include a letter of recommendation from someone who can speak to your musical preparation,

reliability, willingness to learn, and ability to work with others. This may be a teacher, mentor, employer, or community leader.

You may also submit additional materials that help us understand your experience, such as a brief résumé, lesson outline, or description of a musical project you helped organize.

Applicant Acknowledgment

I understand that this is a mentored teaching apprenticeship involving instructor shadowing, instructional assistance, preparation, and agreed teaching responsibilities. I am willing to receive feedback, communicate promptly, and follow through on my commitments.

I understand that selected apprentices receive a partial tuition scholarship and will receive written details of their award, responsibilities, schedule, and any remaining costs before accepting.

Apprentices are required to submit a brief written reflection within 30 days after the program, describing their experience, what they learned, and how they plan to use it. The report may be shared in an MMC press release, on the website, and/or in a newsletter. Recipients will also be asked to provide a high-resolution photograph for possible use with these materials.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Submission Instructions

Submit your completed application, responses, and supporting materials **by April 1**.

Email: monroemandolincamp@gmail.com

Mail:
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Mount Juliet, TN 37121