

It is great to hear of your child's interest, the Arc + Flame Center always tries to encourage passion when it's found! While our minimum age is 16 for blacksmithing our director will do 1on1 interviews for those younger. There have been students as young as 7 that have passed the interview but there have also been some 15-year-old children that didn't. The Arc + Flame goal is to ensure that the children are ready to work with temperatures as high as 2000-3000 degrees Fahrenheit. Approval truly depends on the individual.

Our interview requirements are that the child fill out the following application and bring two to four things they have made personally. These items can be sketches, paintings, garments (fabric), wood work, pottery, clay or paper contraptions, we even had one child bring in circuit boards he had designed and built. Really any crafted item that the child designed and made that they can use to show their understanding of the making procedure and how things develop during construction. Modifications to existing components/toys may be acceptable, it really depends on the modifications.

The child will be expected to talk with us about the projects they have done, why they did certain things, if they had to make changes during construction, what prompted those changes, what could have prompted them to make different design decisions and what they want to do in the future. Discussion of tools used and any research done (adults with experience, library books, google or you tube for example) is encouraged. It is important that the child can remain focused for the duration of the conversation; if they wander off; stop paying attention; or can't stay on topic they will be asked to wait another year and interview again.

If a child passes the interview, those younger than 14 are often encouraged to try a private class first. This provides a safe 1on1 experience, lets us see how the child does hands on and if they have the physical stamina for a regular class. Afterwards the instructor will let the child and parent know if more private instruction is recommended or if a regular class would be okay. If a parent wishes to participate as well that is fine but remember the focus of the instructor will be on the child. It is also requested that the parent minimize their interaction with the child during this time.

Often when discussing this process with parents the projects are the sticking point. If the child doesn't already have the focus or drive to start making items in a methodical way, then smithing may not be the correct place to start. This centers around the safety concerns involving the high heat and other heavy tools but there are many factors to be considered. As an alternative for those novices who still have interest but have not started making yet, a simple file set and some soft wood will allow them to create almost any shape they desire. Also, most craft stores sell a non-air hardening clay. This moves very similarly to hot metal when worked under a hammer. Couple the clay with a ball-peen hammer and a piece of steel (stone or piece of wood is good too) to act as an anvil and it is a good way to practice without using up fuel or materials or exposing them to the hazards of heat. Bonus is if you get a product you like just bake it in the oven to keep for posterity otherwise just smoosh into a bar shape and do it again. In fact, most of our instructors will keep a block of it handy for practice, refreshers or determining order of operations. This tool allows the maker to explore ideas, future projects, potential issues with in-progress designs or to just practice a new technique before a piece of metal ever sees heat.

If you think your child would meet the above requirements we can't wait to meet with them for an interview. Just fill in the following application and send to our Director at [blacksmithing@rocafc.com](mailto:blacksmithing@rocafc.com). Our schedule is rather flexible, especially for promising children.

Thanks

The Rochester Arc + Flame Center

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## Applicant Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First M.I.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address Apartment/Unit #

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ City State ZIP Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you done any Blacksmithing before?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, what? _____
Have you worked with other materials?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, what? _____
Do you have items you created to bring in?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

If no, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent/Guardian Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First M.I.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Created Items

Please list and briefly describe your created items.

**1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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**2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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**3:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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**4:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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### Home Studio or Workspace?

Do you have access to a workspace or your own home studio/shop? YES  NO

If yes, what tooling/equipment do you have or is available for your use? \_\_\_\_\_

### Previous Art/Craft/Trade Classes

Please list and briefly describe any previous classes you have taken outside of general schooling.

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Topics Covered: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Did you pass? YES  NO

May we contact your previous instructor for a reference? YES  NO

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Topics Covered: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Did you pass? YES  NO

May we contact your previous instructor for a reference? YES  NO

### Scheduling the Interview

The next step in this process is to do a personal interview with our Blacksmithing Director or one of the Lead Instructors. Please provide us with a few possible meeting times. Remember you need to be able to bring or show your created items. If for some reason you believe an interview is not possible, please give your reasons (note that skype interviews are possible for students outside a 2-hour drive radius).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Disclaimer and Signature

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that false or misleading information in my application or interview may result in my removal from class.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_