

**KALAMAZOO LIVING HISTORY SHOW™**

MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**KALAMAZOO LIVING HISTORY SHOW™ INITIATES  
AWARD TO FEATURE OUTSTANDING YOUNG ARTISANS**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Kalamazoo Living History Show marks the inauguration of a new award that will recognize up and coming artisans. The *Kalamazoo Living History Show Horizon Award* is an exciting new opportunity for young craftspeople in the heritage arts! One often hears the buzz words “we need more young people involved!” Show staff decided to do something constructive to help young artisans who are looking to network in the living history, museum, and muzzleloading communities and to help bring their art and crafts into the public eye. The Kalamazoo Living History Show™, with an attendance of over 10,000 and now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year, provides the ideal place to do this. The show is dedicated to encouraging, promoting, and ensuring the survival of the living history and muzzleloading hobbies. This award will be given to a young craftsman under the age of 28, who has never been to the show before and whose craftwork is of outstanding quality. The craft can be anything related to the arts and heritage crafts of pre-1890 America. The award will include recognition in event public relations, two free tables to exhibit and sell their work, lunch each day, a \$50.00 gas card, and two free nights in a Kalamazoo area hotel. They will also be given a prominent location at the show, so that they can network, sell, and be congratulated by our visitors and other vendors.

*We thank Discover Kalamazoo and the Hampton Inn for being co-sponsors for this award!*

The award winner this year is *Ashley Burton*, a young scrimshaw artist! Artisans receiving honorable mention include Clinton Armstrong of Deer Creek Forge, and Casey Samson of Samson Family Leather.

If you are a young artisan, or if you know of a young person who might like to apply for this award for the 2016 show, contact Leslie Martin Conwell at [kalamazoolivinghistoryshow@gmail.com](mailto:kalamazoolivinghistoryshow@gmail.com); 765.563.6792, or talk to Leslie or Rick Conwell at this year’s show, scheduled for March 21-22, 2015 at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center.

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