



Education Update Fall 2008

Biannual Newsletter of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Education Branch

Welcome to the New Education Update!



We have designed this new publication to make it easier for educators to learn about upcoming events as well as let you know about our exciting education offerings for the school year.

Recently, there has been a flurry of activity in the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (NHP) Education Branch. New education team members have been hired, interns

for this semester are getting settled, and preparations are underway for the fall 2008 school season in the park which begins September 15.

This fall school season promises to be a blockbuster with thousands of school students already scheduled for programs. We also welcome back the Junior National Young Leaders Conference this year. These students from across the country travel to Washington D.C., and to Harpers Ferry to study leaders of the past and present as they learn to be the leaders of the future.

In all of our education programs we strive to connect learners, both intellectually and emotionally, to the many resources and stories of

Harpers Ferry NHP. We hope that you and your students will be able to join us to learn about the natural and cultural history of the area.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and learn more about current and upcoming projects in the education branch at Harpers Ferry NHP!



Exciting Learning Opportunities for Students September-June

As teachers and students resume class, the education staff at Harpers Ferry NHP is taking reservations for hands-on curriculum based education programs which immerse students in history. Reservations for these programs can be made by filling out the reservation sheet found at www.nps.gov/hafe and faxing it to 304-535-5084. Scheduling continues throughout the year.

With many exciting education programs to offer, teachers and students will not only connect to history, they will be extending their classroom to their national park. All of the programs assist teachers in

meeting VA, WV, and MD state curriculum standards as well as National History Standards.

To learn more about the following offerings, visit www.nps.gov/hafe and click on the "[For Teachers](#)" link on the left-hand side of the screen or call 304-535-2908 for more information.

Available programs include:

- Niagara Movement: The Early Civil Rights Movement (K-12)
- Trek the Trails (K-12)
- Journey through Freedom (2nd-4th)

- Harpers Ferry: A Place in History (3rd-12th)
- Supplied for Survival: Meriwether Lewis at Harpers Ferry (4th-6th)
- To Arms! Soldier's Story (4th-9th)
- Incident at Harpers Ferry: John Brown's Raid (4th-12th)
- Under Fire: A Civil War Story (4th-12th)
- Black Voices (9th-12th)
- Virginius Island: A Story of River and Industry (9th-12th)
- Plus many environmental education programs through [Bridging the Watershed](#) (9th-12th).

A Note from the Teacher's Desk: Amber Kraft, Education Specialist

I'm so excited to be a part of the Harpers Ferry Education team! As Benjamin Franklin said, "Genius without education is like silver in the mine." I truly believe that the education programs, materials, and facilities of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park enable students and teachers to mine the wealth of resources that the area has to offer.

Our hands-on programs make history come alive as students investigate primary resources, role-play families who lived in Harpers Ferry during the John Brown Raid and the American Civil War, travel through African American history, explore Virginus Island and the ruins of old factories and learn how Meriwether Lewis prepared for the trip to the Pacific Ocean.

These education initiatives have been made possible through the generosity of the Harpers Ferry Historical Association and through the commitment and perseverance of the management staff at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the National Capital Regional Office of the National Park Service, and the thousands of educators and students who visit the park each year. I am so grateful for their continued support of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Education Branch.

Amber Kraft
Education Specialist

2008 Summer Institute for Teachers John Brown: The Road to Harpers Ferry



Educators participating in the 2008 Summer Institute for Teachers

From June 23-27, 2008, 22 teachers participated in this year's Summer Institute for Teachers of 4th through 12th grade.

These participants walked in the footsteps of John Brown, John Cook, Shields Green, Robert E. Lee, J.E.B. Stuart, Heyward Shepherd, Fontaine Beckham, and many others as they learned about events of national significance that occurred in Harpers Ferry.

Educators interacted with historians, museum educators, and other professionals in the field. The institute strived to prepare teachers to use historic documents, artifacts, and images to enhance their teaching and inspire students with the stories that make history come alive in the classroom and beyond. By the end of the week, these 22 teachers were John Brown

experts themselves!

Each teacher was eligible to receive three hours of graduate credit from Shepherd University for his/her participation.

This one-week workshop was presented by Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and funded by the Harpers Ferry Historical Association.



Institute participants tour the Kennedy Farm

Junior National Young Leaders Conference

By Maggie Pierce, Youth Conservation Corps Student (Education)

Harpers Ferry NHP presents many great programs and one of them is [Junior National Young Leaders Conference](#) (Jr. NYLC). Jr. NYLC is a conference for kids who are selected by their teachers as leaders. The kids stay a week in Washington, D.C. and go to many interesting places to learn about leaders and leadership traits. It is an amazing program in which kids from all over the country participate! They come and spend one day of their exciting week here in Harpers Ferry.

The day they come here is jam-packed with fun activities. In the morning, groups are assigned to a ranger who becomes their facilitator for the day. Mornings mostly consist of learning about John Brown. They go to four different stops and learn about and interpret John Brown's life, raid,

and death!

There is also a debate on whether the students would follow John Brown, and they enact a reader's theater on John Brown's raid! Lunch is split between eating and looking through museums and going to the bookstore!

In the afternoon, it's on to learning about the Civil War. There are three parts to this: military, war relief, and home front. At the military station the young scholars reenact a military person from the Civil War. They learn and drill the manual of arms and go on missions. At war relief, the students are assigned a character and given missions to perform. The simulation will take them to the sanitary commission, quartermaster, hospital, soldiers' rest, arsenal, and the laundress.

At the home front activity the students act as if they're in Harpers Ferry in the 1860s and learn what life would've been like then. This simulation consists of a dry goods store, boarding house, farmers' market, a church, a jail, and a provost marshal. All of the afternoon activities are really fun for the students and the rangers! At the end of the day there is a closing ceremony where all of the rangers give awards to their groups!

The entire program is a wonderful experience! Harpers Ferry NHP makes learning fun!



National Park Service
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The Education Update is the biannual newsletter of the Harpers Ferry NHP Education Branch. The Education Branch at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park offers education programs geared toward wide and varied audiences. Programs connect participants of all ages to the resources and stories of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

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Phone
304-535-2908

Web Site
www.nps.gov/hafe

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

The Harpers Ferry Historical Association is a Great Partner in Education

You have been reading about many of the exciting programs that are offered through the Education Branch at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. These education initiatives have been made possible, in large part, through the generosity of the [Harpers Ferry Historical Association](#) (HFHA).

The HFHA is a not-for-profit organization established in 1971 to help enhance education and living history programming in the park. Since that time, they have provided over \$1 million in donations to these programs. Their money is raised through donations, membership, and bookshop sales. A few examples of their generous

support are:

- Funded the 2008 Summer Institute for Teachers
- Managed funding and assisted in purchasing materials and props used in the Jr. NYLC program
- Partnered with the park to bring in grant funding
- Sales in the park bookstore supplement education programs like Jr. Ranger Day

We are extremely grateful for their continued support of our education programs. Without it, these and many other programs would not be possible.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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Tiger on the Trail

By Danielle Bishop, Youth Partnership Program Student (Education)

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is expanding its youth hike program and needs your help! This program seeks to reconnect students with nature in the hope of creating a lifestyle of environmental conservation.

Harpers Ferry Middle School field tested the program last year and it was very successful. Because of that success, we are expanding the program to all four Jefferson County Middle Schools. We are excited to be able to facilitate the hikes for the county's middle school students, but are in need of volunteer hike leaders to help us with this program. These volunteers will make a difference in the lives of local children by

leading hikes through Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

If you are interested in assisting us with this important community outreach, please contact the Education Branch at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park at (304) 535-2908 or Amber.Kraft@nps.gov. Your support would help the students tremendously. We hope to hear from you.

Spread the Word

Tell all the teachers you know about the fun and exciting programs being offered by the Education Staff at Harpers Ferry NHP!

