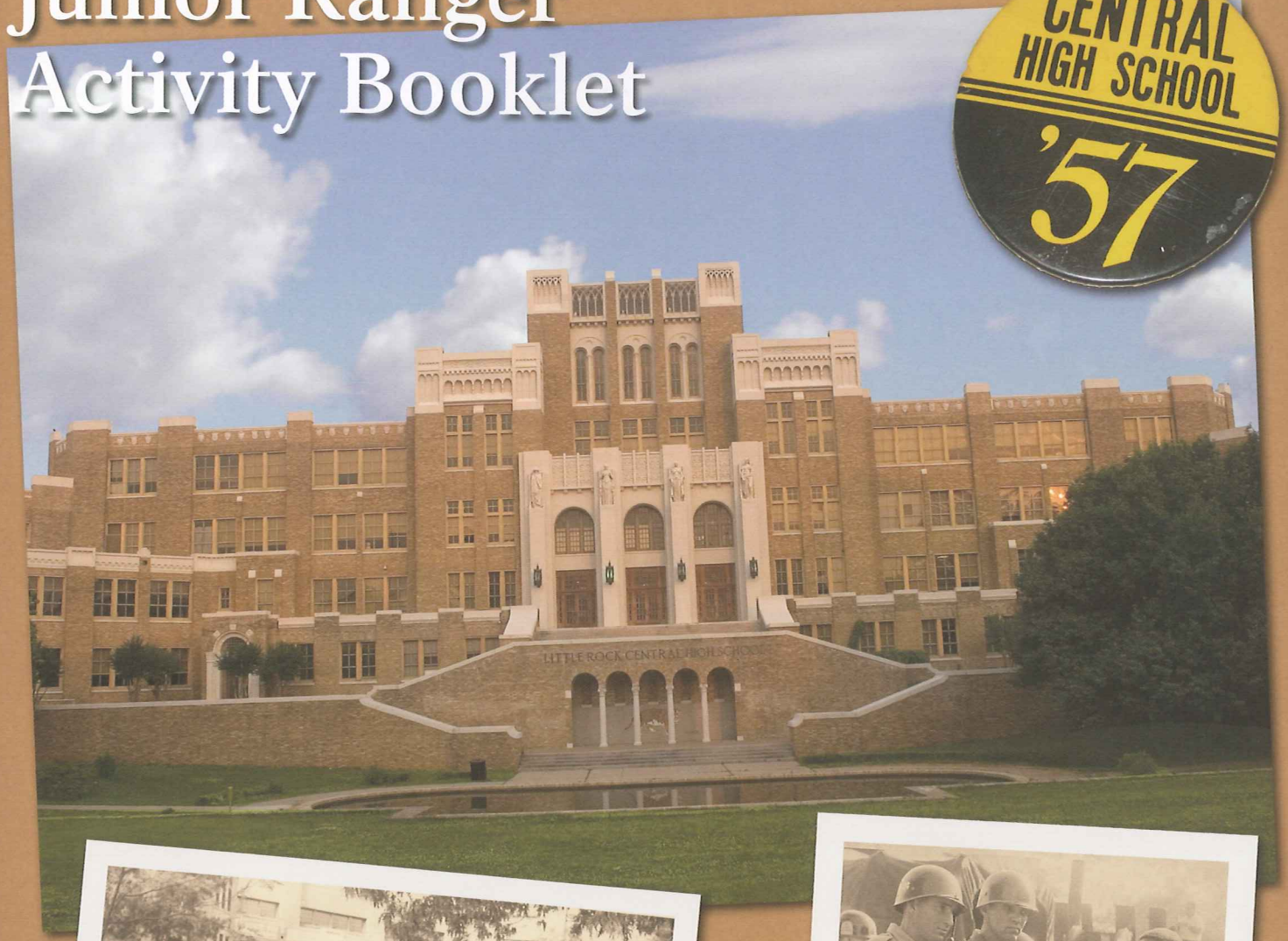
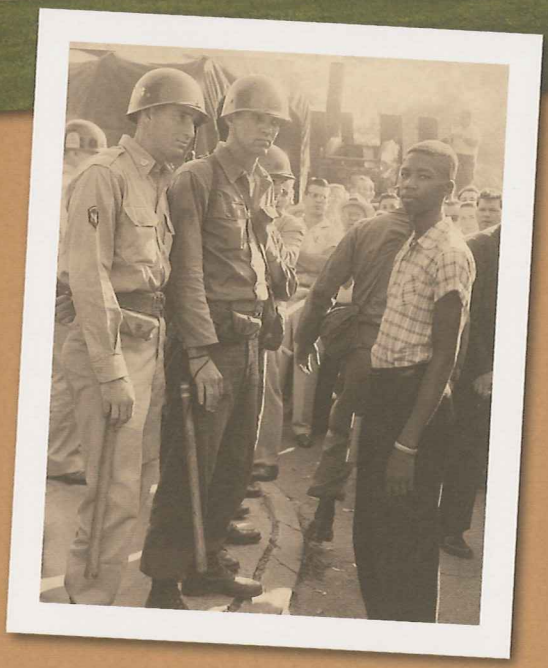
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site

Junior Ranger Activity Booklet





Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site

CENTRAL HIGH
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site was established by an Act of Congress on November 6, 1998, in order to "preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit, education, and inspiration of present and future generations, Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and its role in the integration of public schools and the development of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States." The site is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

For more information, please contact:
Superintendent
Little Rock Central High School NHS
2120 Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202
(501) 374-1957
www.nps.gov/chsc

The Little Rock Nine: Melba Pattillo, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Gloria Ray, Carlotta Walls, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, Minnijean Brown, Thelma Mothershed

CENTRAL HIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

How to Become a Junior Ranger

So, you want to be a Junior Ranger at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site? Do you have what it takes? Here's a secret: Anyone between the ages of 9 and 12 can become a Junior Ranger! It's easy and fun to do! Encourage your friends and relatives to become Junior Rangers with you! Just complete the requirements listed below, and live by the Junior Ranger Promise (see page 15).

Requirements

1) *Visit the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site* and explore the exhibits.
2) *Talk to a park ranger* about your experience at the Visitor Center.
3) *Complete at least three activity pages in this booklet.* If you have questions, ask your parents, friends, or a park ranger for help.
4) *Submit this booklet* to a park ranger at the information desk, or mail to the address below.

If you can't complete three activities while you are here, take this booklet home, fill out the pages, and then just mail the booklet to the park address below. When we receive your booklet, we will send you an official Junior Ranger Badge and Certificate, as well as return your booklet.

You can do it! Become a Junior Ranger today!

Mail to:
Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site
Junior Ranger Program
2120 Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive
Little Rock, AR 72202

Hi! I'm the Central High School mascot, the Tiger.

I am here to help you fill out your Junior Ranger Booklet and take you on a tour of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site.

Pick up a #2 pencil and a clipboard at the front desk and proceed to the exhibits inside the Visitor Center.

Fill out three activities and present this booklet to the park ranger at the Visitor Center to become an official National Park Service Junior Ranger!

Introduction

Little Rock Central High School is a place to learn about a pivotal time in history, to learn how far we've come, and to learn how far we have to go.

In 1957, Little Rock, Arkansas was a battleground in the struggle for civil rights and desegregation of public schools.

Telling A Story

Walk into the exhibits about the 1957 Crisis at Central High, located in the Visitor Center. In the 1950s - just like today - the media (newspapers, television, radio) was important in telling the Central High School (CHS) story to the state, nation and world. The conflict at CHS became a worldwide media event.

CENTRAL HIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Explore the Exhibit

Choose three activities below and explore the exhibit to answer the questions.

1. Watch the 3 monitors at the entrance. Pick 3 words or quotes that mean the most to you. What do they mean? Explain them in your own words.

•

•

•

2. Use the touchscreen to see if you were included in **"We the People"** in 1787. What rights would you have had?

3. Listen to the phone in the **"Rights Granted...and Denied"** section to hear what segregation was like. How would you feel if you weren't allowed to go somewhere because of the color of your skin?

4. Pick up the phone between the **"Ambition"** and **"Personality"** statues and listen to the Little Rock Nine tell you why they wanted to go to Central High School. Was school important to them? Is it important to you? Why or why not?

5. Listen to and watch stories from **"Memories of the Crisis"** at the back of the exhibit. Which story is your favorite? Why is it your favorite?

6. Use the computer touchscreen called **"Brown v. Board"** in the **"Taking it to the Courts"** section to learn about the court cases involved in desegregation. How would you get to school if you didn't have a car or school bus? What would you have done if you were a judge in those cases?

Fill in the Blank

1. The preamble to the Constitution says it is a document for "_____ the _____."

2. The Fourteenth Amendment outlawed states from denying citizens the _____ _____ of the laws.

3. Plessy v. Ferguson declared that _____ facilities based on race were constitutional as long as they were equal in quality.

4. The _____ Amendment outlawed slavery in 1865.

5. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People fought against _____.

6. "_____ _____" laws promoted racial prejudice and segregation.

7. The Little Rock School Board began to desegregate its schools in _____ at Central High School.

8. _____ _____ was governor of Arkansas at the time of the 1957 crisis at Central High School.

9. Nine African American students were enrolled to attend _____ _____ _____ in 1957.

10. The Arkansas governor used the Arkansas _____ _____ to prevent the African-American students from entering school in 1957.

11. _____ _____ was President during the Central High School Crisis.

12. Alarmed by the closing of Little Rock's high schools, a group of women formed the _____ to reopen the schools in 1958.

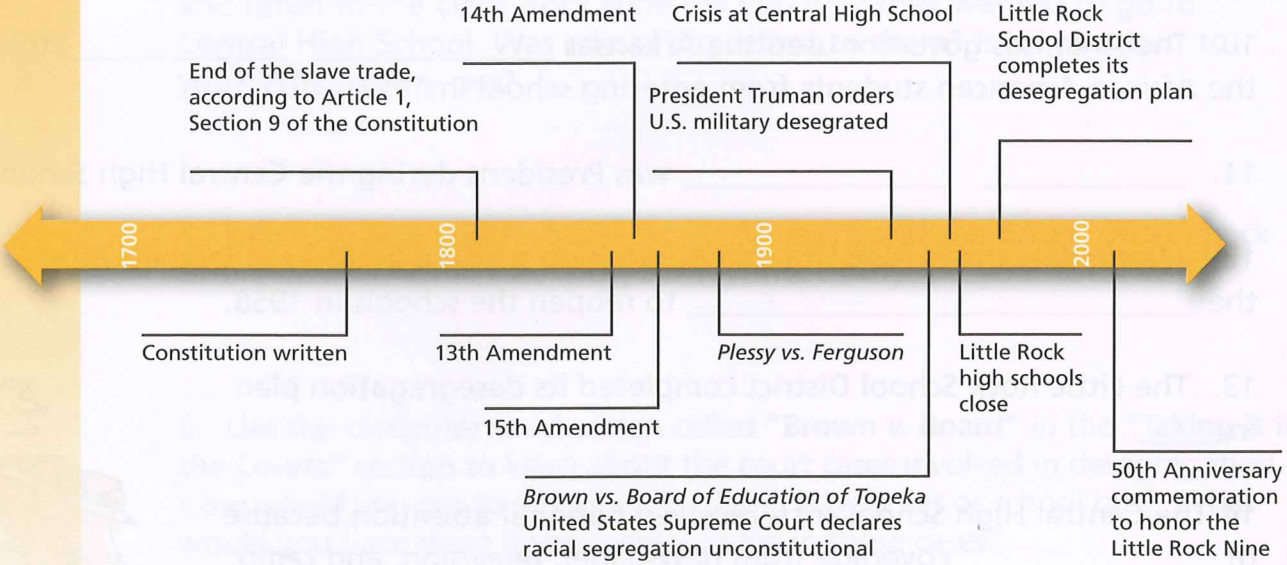
13. The Little Rock School District completed its desegregation plan in _____.

14. The Central High School crisis received national attention because of _____ coverage from newspaper, television, and radio reporters.

CENTRAL HIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Timeline

Pretend you are a reporter who must get information for a magazine article. Use the exhibit to fill in the timeline dates and fill in the blanks for your story. Please check in with one of the rangers if you have any questions.



Matching

Match the following groups, events, or people with their role in civil rights history.

A. Elizabeth & Roy Peratrovich
B. 1960 Sit-Ins
C. *Plessy v. Ferguson*
D. Dolores Huerta & Cesar Chavez
E. Montgomery Bus Boycott
F. Michelle Steger
G. 1964 Civil Rights Act
H. *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*
I. Chief Joseph
J. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
K. *University of Maryland v. Murray*
L. Fred Korematsu

_____ 1. Lunch counter protests against discrimination in service.

_____ 2. Founders of the United Farm Workers Union to protect non-English speaking workers' rights.

_____ 3. Outlaws discrimination in restaurants, hotels, movie theaters, and any other public facilities.

_____ 4. American Indian who declared "The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it."

_____ 5. She works to ensure enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

_____ 6. Supreme Court case that outlawed segregation at the University of Maryland law school.

_____ 7. Man who filed a lawsuit protesting his relocation to an internment camp in 1942.

_____ 8. Supreme Court case in 1896 that established the "separate but equal" doctrine.

_____ 9. She fought for equal rights for women in the 19th Century.

_____ 10. Tlingit couple who fought discrimination in Alaska in the 1940s.

_____ 11. U.S. Supreme Court case of 1954 that declared racial segregation in schools unconstitutional.

_____ 12. Protest of segregated buses in Montgomery, Alabama, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1955.

CENTRAL HIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Word Search

Find the following words that relate to the Central High School Crisis of 1957.

- Education
- Bravery
- Courage
- Racism
- Determination
- Persistence
- Constitution
- Supreme Court
- Civil Rights
- Central High
- Commitment
- Student
- Ambition
- Personality
- Preparation
- Opportunity
- Equality
- Justice
- Segregation
- Integration
- Law
- Freedom
- Liberty

C	A	C	I	V	I	L	R	I	G	H	T	S	Z	T	M	E	U	C	C
G	B	P	E	R	S	I	S	T	E	N	C	E	C	O	W	D	R	I	Y
U	W	O	S	B	X	B	J	C	P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L	I	T	Y
Q	J	V	G	B	C	E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N	B	R	I	H	O
K	I	C	D	P	E	R	S	N	S	O	R	B	W	Z	E	L	X	P	K
S	T	U	D	E	N	T	Q	M	C	T	V	E	K	R	A	C	I	S	M
O	K	X	R	I	T	Y	A	S	T	M	I	E	C	U	F	O	L	A	V
P	G	I	K	H	R	O	W	Z	W	O	P	C	Q	B	Y	M	D	C	F
Q	O	N	B	R	A	A	P	V	A	D	D	E	E	R	C	M	A	O	M
D	C	T	I	A	L	M	C	P	R	E	P	A	R	A	T	I	O	N	I
C	U	E	J	P	H	A	B	M	O	E	H	O	G	V	C	T	L	S	R
K	Q	G	S	Y	I	E	C	I	H	R	Y	D	P	E	W	M	I	T	P
T	U	R	N	M	G	B	O	V	T	F	T	C	H	R	A	E	G	I	W
F	L	A	S	T	H	I	R	K	P	I	Z	U	O	Y	B	N	C	T	Y
T	C	T	P	D	C	E	G	A	R	U	O	C	N	E	F	T	H	U	U
G	R	I	Q	M	O	P	L	F	I	C	R	N	S	I	C	A	O	T	R
C	L	O	Y	S	U	P	R	E	M	E	C	O	U	R	T	R	G	I	A
I	C	N	O	I	T	A	G	E	R	G	E	S	C	F	A	Y	L	O	K
W	A	H	U	R	K	D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	C

Case Matching

Many people were involved in court cases to end discrimination. Use the **"Taking it to the Courts"** exhibit to draw lines to match the court case with the correct year and what effect the decision had.

Year	***Case***	***Effect***
1936	*Mendez v. Westminster*	South Carolina courts agree that African American schools needed funding to improve buildings and educational materials.
1951	*Univ. of Maryland v. Murray*	Supreme Court ruled Little Rock had to move forward with its gradual integration plan.
1958	*Briggs v. Elliot*	Plessy decision overturned; desegregation ordered "with all deliberate speed."
1951	*Aaron v. Cooper*	Segregation of Latino students overturned in California
1954	*Belton (Bulah) v. Gebhart*	University law school is forced to desegregate.
1945	*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*	District judge orders black children to be admitted to "obvious[ly] superior" white schools.

CENTRAL HIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Walking in the Footsteps of the Nine

"I had long dreamed of entering Central High. I could never have imagined what that privilege could cost me."

-Melba Pattillo Beals

Take a journey across the street to look at Central High School and learn more about the school that the Little Rock Nine wanted to attend in 1957.

The building is a concrete symbol of equal rights under the law, a guarantee that is given to all Americans in the United States Constitution.

Pretend you are an artist who wants to interpret an image of Central High School. Draw a sketch of the building and how it might have looked with soldiers standing on guard in 1957.

Take a Step into History

The Little Rock Nine, escorted by the 101st Airborne, climbed the left staircase into Central High School and into history.

Silently watching were the four statues above the doors. When Central High School opened in 1927, officials explained what the words carved below the statues mean.

Where AMBITION is fired-
Where PERSONALITY is developed-
Where OPPORTUNITY is presented-
Where PREPARATION in the solution of life's problems is begun.

1. What goals do you have? Do you have the ambition, or motivation, to meet your goals?

2. How will your personality, or character, shape your goals?

3. What opportunities, or chances, will you need to meet your goals?

4. How can you best prepare, or train, yourself to meet your goals?

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Reflections of the Past...To Change the Future

Walk down to the reflecting pool in front of Central High School. In her book, Warriors Don't Cry, Little Rock Nine member Melba Pattillo Beals wrote,

> *"I pause as I recall what a treacherous place that [pool] was in 1957 when students repeatedly tried to push us...down into the water."*

The Little Rock Nine faced bullying and abuse on a daily basis, but they used the principles of nonviolence to defend themselves, rather than striking back physically. Think about your life today. Have you ever seen anyone being bullied? Have you ever been bullied yourself? How did you feel? Have you ever defended someone who was being bullied?

How would you feel if?

1. You were not allowed to attend your school because of the color of your skin?

2. You could not participate in music, sports, or acting at your school because of the color of your skin?

3. You had to be escorted by a soldier when you walked to class?

4. How do you think the Little Rock Nine felt?

Central High School National Historic Site Commemorative Garden

The Central High School Commemorative Garden celebrates the ability of people to overcome adversity. It depicts how Central High's students have changed, and how they have stayed the same, between 1927 and today. It also shows how people have many things in common, regardless of where we are from or under what circumstances we grew up.

Spend some time in the garden and answer the questions below.

Look at the arches and find a picture that has meaning to you. Which picture is it? What does it mean to you?

Read "The Spirit of Central High" written between the arches. Write down words you don't know and ask a ranger what they mean.

Write down three feelings you experience as you walk in the commemorative garden.

What events have happened in your lifetime that future historians will look back on?

CENTRAL HIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Writing History

You're the historian! Everyone can write history because history is made every day. Pretend you are fifty years old, writing about your visit to Central High School National Historic Site. Tell the story of everything you saw and experienced. (For help to get you started, answer the questions below.)

It's best to start at the beginning. Where did you live then? How did you get here? What was your favorite part of the exhibit? What else did you see? Did you like visiting? Why or why not?

MY VISIT TO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

BY:

Congratulations!

As a Junior Ranger, you will be entrusted to treat all other people with respect. What are 3 other things you can do to make the world a better place?

1.

2.

3.

The Junior Ranger Promise

I, _____, promise to

- Treat all people with respect
- Cooperate with others and communicate in positive ways
- Learn more about the history and contributions of other cultures
- Work hard and do my best in school
- Tell others about the National Park Service and about my experiences at Central High School National Historic site

CENTRAL HIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Resources

Sometimes Junior Rangers of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site need to do book reports for school. Sometimes they even need a research project topic for class that requires information from the Internet. What would be a better subject than the historical events and people surrounding the site? This is an excellent opportunity for you to show off your skills as a National Park Service Junior Ranger while doing your homework! Here are some sources that will help you along the way, so rush out to your library today or point your browser this way...

Booklist

Melba Pattillo Beals, *Warriors Don't Cry (Young Reader's Edition)*. New York: Pocket Books, 1995.

Montrew Dunham, *Thurgood Marshall: Young Justice.* New York: Aladdin Publications, 1998.

Judith Bloom Fradin and Dennis Brindell Fradin, *The Power of One: Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine.* New York: Clarion Books, 2004.

Brendan January, *Witness to History: Civil Rights.* Chicago: Heinemann Library, 2003.

Richard Kelso, *Days of Courage: The Little Rock Story.* Austin: The Steck-Vaughn Company, 1993.

Websites

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site - www.nps.gov/chsc - Be sure and click on the "In Depth" icon to learn more about the events and the people involved.

Little Rock, 1957: Pages From History - www.ardemgaz.com/prev/central

Little Rock Nine Foundation - www.littlerock9.com

National Civil Rights Museum - www.civilrightsmuseum.org

Our Documents: Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) - www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=52

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site - www.nps.gov/malu

Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site - www.nps.gov/brvb

The L.C. & Daisy Bates Museum - www.daisybateshouse.com

We Shall Overcome: Daisy Bates House - www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/civilrights/

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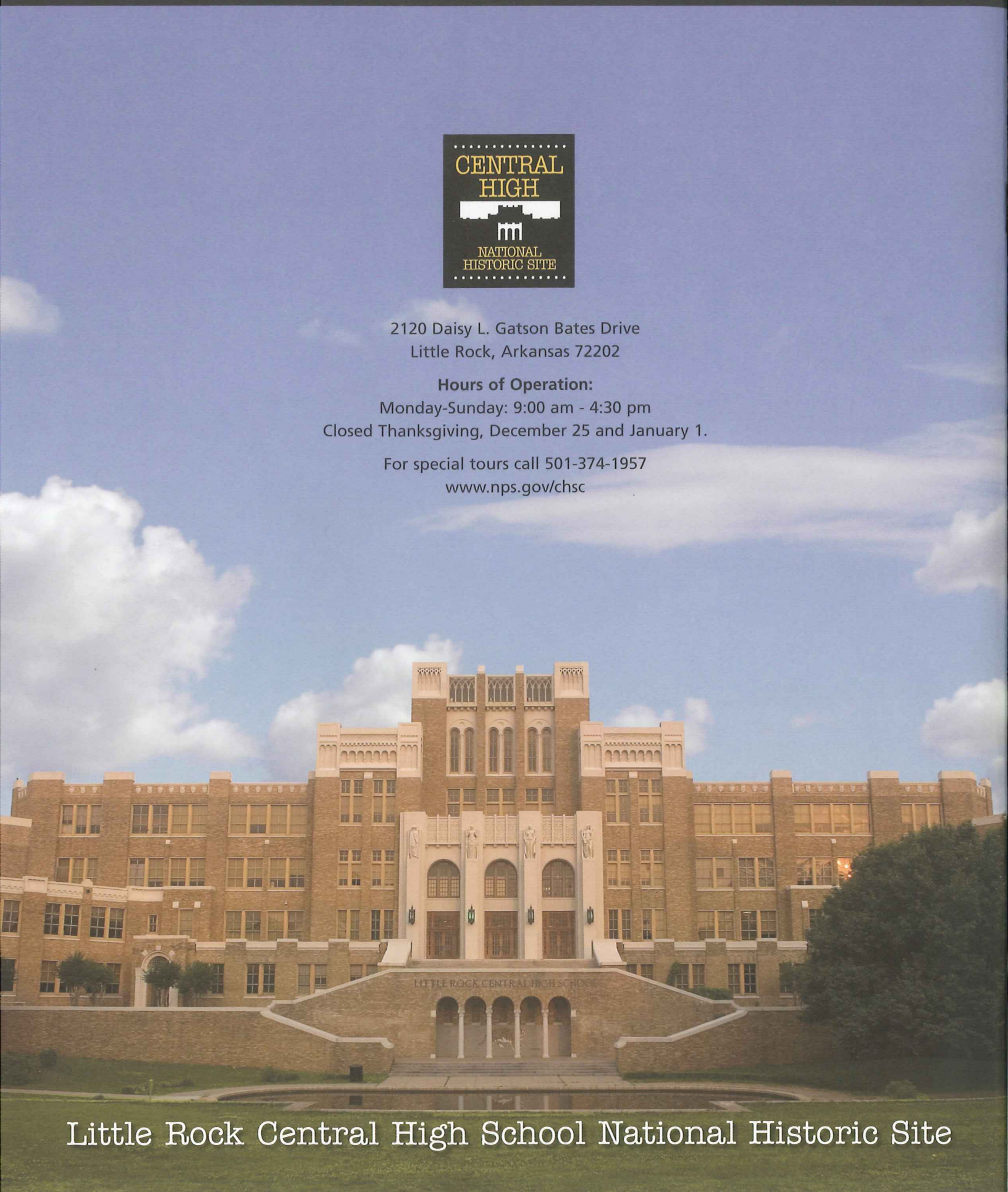

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2120 Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

Hours of Operation:
Monday-Sunday: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Closed Thanksgiving, December 25 and January 1.

For special tours call 501-374-1957
www.nps.gov/chsc

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