

Little Rock Central High School 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, a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

#### For more information, please contact:

Little Rock Central High School NHS 2120 W. Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

Park Email - chsc\_info@nps.gov Park Website - nps.gov/chsc







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



# 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 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 14).



#### Requirements

- 1) Visit the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site and explore the exhibits in the visitor center.
- 2) Complete activity pages in this booklet; you can ask your parents, friends, or a park ranger for help.
  - a) Elementary School: Complete at least 3 activity pages
  - b) Middle School/Junior High: Complete at least 4 activity pages
  - c) High School: Complete at least 6 activity pages
  - d) Adult: Complete at least 8 activity pages
- 3) Return your booklet to a park ranger at the information desk. If you cannot finish during your visit, you can still become a Junior Ranger (see below information).

If you cannot complete the activities while you are here, you can take this booklet with you, finish the activities at your own pace, and then send back to us by email or through the mail.

When we receive your booklet, we will send you an official Junior Ranger badge and return your booklet to you.

Email a copy: chsc\_info@nps.gov

#### Mail your booklet:

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Junior Ranger Program 2120 W. Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive Little Rock, Arkansas 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 Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site.

Pick up a pencil and a clipboard at the front desk and proceed to the exhibits inside the visitor center.

Complete 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 Little Rock Central High School (LRCHS) story to the state, nation and world. The conflict at LRCHS became a worldwide media event.





## **Explore the Exhibit**

Choose 3 of the questions below and explore the exhibits in the visitor center to answer the questions.

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

- •
- •
- 2. Use the flipbook to see if you were included in "**We the People**." What rights would you have had?
- 3. Use the phone in the "**Rights Granted...and Denied**" section to hear what life was like during segregation. How would you feel if you could not go somewhere just because of the color of your skin?
- 4. Pick up the phone at the "**Why Step Forward**" exhibit (*between the* "**Ambition**" and "**Personality**" statues) and listen to the Little Rock Nine tell you why they wanted to go to Little Rock Central High School. Was school important to them? Is it important to you? Why or why not?
- 5. Listen to and watch stories at one of the "**Memories of the Crisis**" stations at the back of the exhibits. 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?

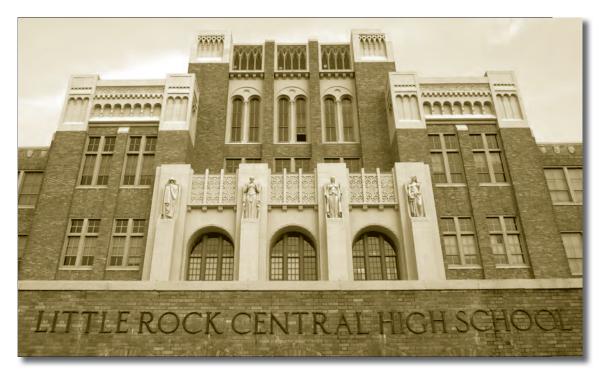


## Fill in the Blank

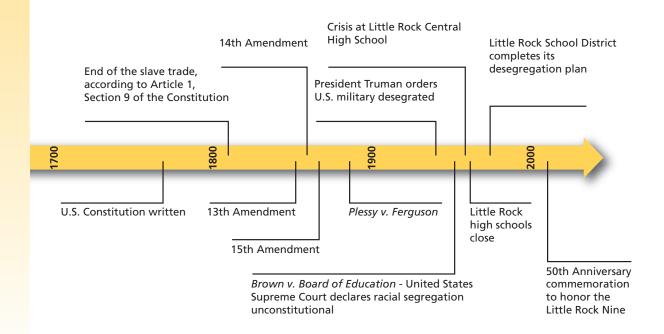
1. Th	e preamble to the Constitution says it is a document for " the"
	e Fourteenth Amendment outlawed states from denying citizens the of the laws.
	essy v. Ferguson declared that facilities based on race were tutional as long as they were equal in quality.
4. Th	e Amendment (1865) outlawed slavery.
	e National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) fought st
6. "_	laws promoted racial prejudice and segregation.
	e Little Rock School Board began to desegregate its schools in at Little Rock al High School.
	was governor of Arkansas at the time of the 1957 crisis at Rock Central High School.
	e first African American students to attend Little Rock Central High School were n as the ""
	e Arkansas governor used the Arkansas to prevent frican American students from entering Little Rock Central High School in 1957.
11	was President during the Central High School Crisis.
	armed by the closing of Little Rock's high schools, a group of women formed to reopen the schools in 1958.
13.Th	e Little Rock School District completed its desegregation plan —·
	e Central High School crisis received national attention because coverage from newspaper, television, and radio ters.



## **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 (1896)
- D. Dolores Huerta & Cesar Chavez
- E. Montgomery Bus Boycott
- F. Michelle Steger

- G. 1964 Civil Rights Act
- H. Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
- I. Chief Joseph
- J. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- K. Cooper v. Aaron (1958)
- 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 worked to ensure enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 6.	U.S. Supreme Court case that ruled Little Rock had to move forward with its gradual integration plan.
 7.	Man who filed a lawsuit protesting his relocation to an internment camp in 1942.
 8.	U.S. Supreme Court case that established the "separate but equal" doctrine.
 9.	She fought for equal rights for women in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century.
 10.	Tlingit couple who fought discrimination in Alaska in the 1940s.
 11.	U.S. Supreme Court case that declared racial segregation in schools unconstitutional.
 12.	Protest of segregated buses in Montgomery, Alabama, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1955.



#### **Word Search**

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

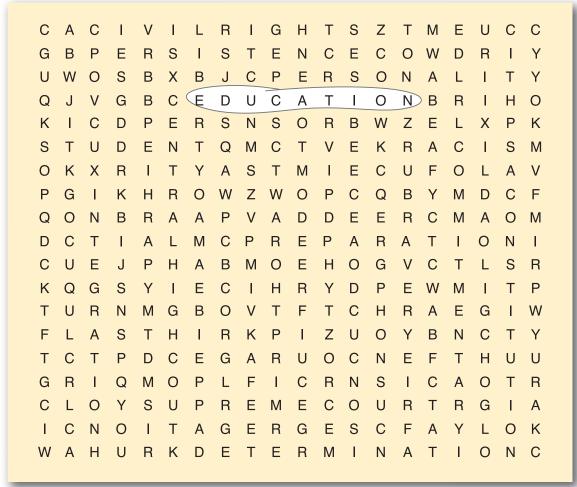
Education
Bravery
Courage
Racism
Determination
Persistence

Constitution

**Supreme Court** 

Civil Rights
Central High
Commitment
Student
Ambition
Personality
Preparation
Opportunity

Equality
Justice
Segregation
Integration
Law
Freedom
Liberty





## 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 Little Rock 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 Little Rock 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 Little Rock Central High School and into history.

Silently watching were the four statues above the doors. When Little Rock 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?



# Reflections of the Past...To Change the Future

Walk down to the reflecting pool in front of Little Rock Central High School. In her book, *Warriors Don't Cry*, one of the Little Rock Nine, 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?





# Little Rock Central High School NHS Commemorative Garden



The Little Rock Central High School NHS Commemorative Garden celebrates the ability of people to overcome adversity. It depicts how Little Rock 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 poem "The Spirit of Central High." You'll find it in the circle between the arches. Write down words you don't know and ask a park ranger what they mean.

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

What big events have happened in your life that historians in the future might study?



## 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 Little Rock 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!

#### **The Junior Ranger Promise**

As a Junior Ranger, 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
- Tell others about the National Park Service and about my experience at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site



### **Junior Ranger Certificate**

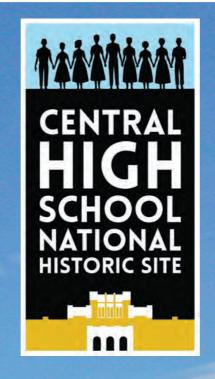
The work completed certifies that

has demonstrated all the qualities necessary to become a

Junior Ranger at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site

**Park Ranger** 

**Date** 



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