Middle School History Program Lesson Plan

**Title:** Why They Came

**Grades**: 8th

**Length:** 1-1.5 hours

**Topic:** Bathhouse industry as an influence on tourism and medical care in 20th century Arkansas

**Summary**

“Why They Came” is a student-guided history program to explore the lives of many people who came to work and be healed at Hot Springs. The program takes place within the Fordyce Bathhouse as students explore the building using guiding questions and biographical information to understand the stories of the people who used the Fordyce between 1915 and 1962. The program culminates in a discussion-based activity with park rangers about the history of public health at Hot Springs.

**Arkansas State Standards:**

H.5.8.6 Analyze short- and long-term effects of Progressive Era reforms at the local, state, and national levels:

H.5.8.8 Examine reasons for and effects of social, economic, political, and cultural changes during the 1920s…

ARKANSAS HISTORY

E.1.ARH.5 Analyze the local, regional, national, and global economic impact of Arkansas businesses and industries, including agriculture, tourism, timber, technology, medical and scientific research, and finance.

G.1.ARH.6 Analyze relationships between the geography of Arkansas and economic development over time. Teacher Note: This may include: ● Tourism from lakes, rivers, forests, state parks, and thermal springs

H.1.ARH.14 Research contributions made by Arkansans in the fields of art, business, medicine, science, and technology in the 20th and 21st centuries ● Art ● Medicine ● Business ● Science and technology

**Essential Question:**

How did people’s hopes and interest in Hot Springs shape the development of the park and bathhouses?

**Objectives**

1. Students will be able to explain the national profile of Hot Springs in the early 20th century by using the biographies of specific historical figures.
2. Students will be able to discuss the different motivations of the multi-cultural communities who came to Hot Springs.
3. Students will be able to describe the influence of Public Health on the development of Hot Springs as a national park.