



Education Update Spring 2010

Bi-Annual Newsletter of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Education Branch

Apply Now to Participate in Our 2010 Summer Institutes for Teachers

A House Divided: 1859-1861 Harpers Ferry National Historical Park June 27- July 2, 2010

This Summer Institute provides teachers with the opportunity to explore and understand the years of 1859-1861 prior to the Civil War and its lasting impact on the American story. During one week of intensive study, twenty-five participants will learn how to effectively incorporate the study of this defining period of history into their teaching through technology and hands-on exploration.

Participants will experience history firsthand throughout the week long institute. **For teachers of grades 4-12.** The application for this institute is available at <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/forteacher/s/professionaldevelopment.htm>.

The Prelude to War: 1859-1861 Online with American Public University and onsite at Harpers Ferry NHP July 5-August 29, 2010

From abolitionist John Brown's execution to the outbreak of the American Civil War, national events were tumultuous and explosive during this pivotal time in American history. Brown's ill-fated strike against enslavement of African Americans sparked talk of war, constitutional and states' rights, and secession throughout



2009 Summer Institute Participants with Ranger David Fox

the United States leading up to the events at Fort Sumter. **For teachers of grades 4-12.** More information and applications can be found at: <http://www.apu.apus.edu/lp/agreements/harpers-ferry/index.htm>.

Bridging the Watershed Teacher Institute Harpers Ferry NHP, Monocacy NB, & Catoclin Mountain Park June 14-June 18, 2010

The BTW summer institute will prepare teachers to incorporate one or more of the BTW stand-alone curriculum modules into science courses. During these

institutes, participants will explore the Potomac watershed to learn the local history, geology, and ecology and work with student investigations in the BTW curricula. An integral part of the institutes is an opportunity for teachers to engage in a field study in their participating parks to collect and analyze authentic data. **For teachers of environmental science, Earth science, chemistry, biology, integrated physics in grades 6-12.** More information and applications can be found at: <http://www.bridgingthewatershed.org/btw/training.shtml>.

A Note from the Teacher's Desk: Catherine Bragaw, Education Program Manager

"Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another. "

Gilbert K. Chesterton

I would like to extend my appreciation to all the amazing teachers and staff that we work with year round. For those who were able to bring their students for a visit to this great American place during the 2008-2009 school year, thank you for making a difference in our world.

More and more teachers, administrators and education specialists are incorporating field lessons into their curriculum because authentic, place-based hands-on lessons work and they are fun!!!! Making this happen though, is not an easy task, so I applaud your efforts! What you do does matter!

We are now in full swing for the spring 2010 program and are here to assist you in arranging a day at the park. A list of current programming can be located on the Harpers Ferry NHP website at www.nps.gov/hafe/forteachers/rangeguided.htm. You may also try our new reservation system. It has a few kinks but it seems to be a good addition to making your planning easier. I am also very happy to talk to you about what would fit best for you to reach your curriculum goals!

In closing I wish you all the best for the rest of the school year! It is your work that creates the wonder; making our students more creative, curious, strong and happy. We are here to support your work in any way that we can just let us know!

Catherine Bragaw
Education Program Manager

2010 Vodcast Service Learning Project



Election Day with Ranger John Powell

Monday, January 25th, took Harpers Ferry Middle School Students and visitors back 150 years to the Presidential Election of 1860. Over 20 volunteers and staff from the park transformed the school in preparation for this year's vodcast project. Students spent the day learning about the election through speeches, campaigning, skits, interpretation in their classes, and of course a delicious election day picnic lunch! Toward the end of the day each student marched up to the stage and proudly cast their ballot. Although Abraham Lincoln was not on the ballot for Jefferson County in 1860 he was included this time in addition to the other three candidates: Stephen A. Douglas, John C. Breckinridge, and John Bell. Students elected Abraham Lincoln to be their President, with Stephen A. Douglas coming in a close second!

Eighth grade honor students played an important role in the day's events. After spending the week before practicing skits and creating signs for each candidate, they spent the election day itself boisterously campaigning, acting

out plays, and leading militia drills. Posters, banners, and fliers were hung and carried all through the school as students cheered and heckled for their candidates. On these works of art one could find sayings such as "Vote for Abe, He's a Babel!" or "Breckinridge will protect our liberty!"

The 1860 Election Program was the kickoff to another set of vodcasts created by the students. Last year they told the events from John Brown's raid to coincide with the 150th anniversary. This year, interested students will help write scripts and explain in their own words the events from the 1860 Election to the first shots of the American Civil War. They will also assist with costumes, props, and the editing process. The vodcasts will take dedicated students most of the school year to complete. We want to thank Harpers Ferry Middle School ahead of time for their flexibility and hard work! We look forward to another amazing set of vodcasts created by a talented group of students. Stay tuned for more on this great project!

Youth In the Park



Our Youth jobs program is growing! This year we anticipate 15 students ages 14 – 25 will participate in a summer jobs program. The park is still accepting Youth Conservation Corp applications for students ages 15 – 18. Applications can be found at

<http://www.nps.gov/hafe/parknews/ycc-summer-employment.htm>.

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is a well-balanced work-learn-earn program that develops an understanding and appreciation in participating youth of the Nation's environment and heritage. It is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
P.O. Box 65
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

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.

Forest Service, and by the U.S. Department of the Interior-Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service. YCC offers gainful summer employment to youth, for approximately eight weeks, in a healthful outdoor atmosphere.

Students are introduced to the concept of the learning community organizational model. They explore how you develop a positive work culture and why that is important. They engage in dialogue and planning to improve the performance of park operation and they participate in team building exercises.

Other Fun Stuff

The Wetlands outdoor classroom is now open for business! Please see the website for program offerings.

The hike program has been a big hit. Consider adding a hike to your scheduled program!

The Civil War trunk offers great lessons and is packed with tons of reproductions to make history come alive. For pick up at the park only. Teachers can check out the trunk for 2 week periods.

Remember historic weapon demonstrations are an option for those choosing the Soldier Story program. Please designate if you would like to include a 19th century small arms firing.

We are developing a new program, using puzzles that teach the industrial revolution through the story of the US Armory is now underway. Watch for this next Spring!

Coming this year is a 19th century garden that students can help cultivate plant, tend and harvest. Come learn about food-ways and gardens!

Internships and Volunteer Opportunities

Winter may seem to be here for good, but have no fear, spring is just around the corner! And of course with the warmer weather comes the arrival of more visitors and school groups to our park. Beginning March 1, students from all over the country will attend the Congressional Youth Leadership Conference with Harpers Ferry being one of their stops. This, along with our many other programs offered will provide for a busy start to the year that can only go smoothly with help from others.

Lately, we have been diligently organizing our internship opportunity information and sending it out to schools all over the country. Already we have received a good number of interested students applying! We are also making arrangements to

attend Job Fairs at different universities in the area to give students a better understanding of the benefits of working with Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. An intern is eligible for free housing along with a weekly reimbursement. They are able to learn and interpret park themes while gaining great lifelong experience.

We would be lost without the help of our seasonal staff, volunteers, interns, and all others who have dedicated time to support our youth. If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering or being an intern with the education branch please contact Amber Kraft by calling 304-535-6293 or e-mail Amber_Kraft@nps.gov.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
 P.O. Box 65
 Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Superintendent
 Rebecca Harriet

Chief of Interpretation, Education, and Partnerships
 Dennis Frye

Education Staff
 Catherine Bragaw, Ed. Program Manager
 Amber Kraft, Education Specialist
 Stan McGee
 Autumn Cook
 Lesley Johnson
 Christy Tew
 Jeff Driscoll
 Tom Frezza
 Traci Manning
 Liane Christensen
 Meredith Matherly
 Isaac Kerns
 Graham Humphrey

Comments?
Write to:
 Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
 Education Branch
 PO Box 65
 Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
Call: 304-535-2908
Web Site: www.nps.gov/hafe

Firearms Now Permitted in National Parks

As of February 22, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, WV, VA, MD and local laws to possess firearms in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

The new federal law, a provision of the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-24, Section 512), makes possession of firearms in national parks also subject to the firearms laws of the state and communities where the parks are located.

Harpers Ferry NHP is located in the states of WV, VA, and MD. Visitors must be aware of their location while in the park and comply with that particular state law.

Federal law continues to prohibit the possession of firearms in designated

“federal facilities” in national parks, for example, visitor centers, offices, or maintenance buildings. These places are marked with “Firearms Prohibited” signs. The new law also does not change prohibitions on the use of firearms in national parks or change hunting regulations in those few national parks that allow hunting. Hunting is not allowed in Harpers Ferry NHP.

As always, if you have questions, please seek out a National Park Service employee. To report any emergency dial 866-677-6677, 911 or contact a ranger.

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!

