



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Harpers Ferry
National Historical Park

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Back to School – in America’s National Parks *National Park Service Helps Teachers Make Learning Fun & Relevant*

Harpers Ferry - Teachers across the Eastern Panhandle have a new tool to help them engage their students in classroom and place-based learning.

Today the National Park Service (NPS) launched a new online service for teachers that brings America’s national parks, including Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, into neighborhood classrooms. The new “[Teachers](#)” section of the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov/teachers provides a one-stop shop for curriculum-based lesson plans, traveling trunks, maps, activities, distance learning, and other resources. All of the materials draw from the spectacular natural landscapes and authentic places preserved in America’s national parks.

"Teachers want the best for their students," said Dennis Frye, Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. "We offer top-notch curriculum programs and activities, but now teachers can explore our offerings with other parks by simply perusing topics such as the Civil War, Civil Rights, or slavery. This will save teachers valuable time, and it makes the search for classroom materials so much easier."

The new design of the “For Teachers” portion of the Harpers Ferry NHP website allows for educators to easily navigate to make reservations to visit the park, download self-guided activities, find new in-classroom lesson plans, and much more. The lesson plans will be linked to the NPS main “Teachers” page so that educators across the country can utilize any of the park’s lessons relevant to their classroom objectives.

The main site is searchable by location, keyword, and more than 125 subjects, from archeology, to biology, to Constitutional law. Teachers will, for the first time, be able to rate NPS-provided content. In addition to park-created content, the site also features educational materials created by NPS national programs like the National Register of Historic Places and its award-winning [Teaching with Historic Places](#) series of 147 lesson plans.

The website is just one part of the National Park Service's ongoing commitment to education. Every year, national parks offer more than 57,000 educational programs that serve nearly 3 million students in addition to 563,000 interpretive programs attended by 12.6 million visitors. The NPS is working with partners and educational institutions to expand programs and encourage the use of parks as places of learning. The NPS has partnered with the Department of Education to integrate national park resources into core curriculums. Each summer, teachers across the country are hired to work in parks to develop curriculum-based programs based on park resources through the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program.

To learn more about the National Park Service's education programs, visit www.nps.gov/teachers.

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About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov Visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natlparkservice, and YouTube www.youtub.com/nationalparkservice.