***Results of Peer Review***   
  
**Certification Assessment for an Interpretive Talk**   
  
Product Number: 16222  
Park/Site: JELA  
  
**Results for this review:** **The certifiers determined that this submission demonstrates certification standards. The submission...**

* Is successful as a catalyst in creating opportunities for audience members to form their own intellectual and emotional connections to the meanings/significance of the resource
* Seemed appropriate for the audience
* Provides a clear focus for audience connections with the resource(s) by demonstrating the cohesive development of a relevant idea or ideas, rather than relying primarily on a recital of a chronological narrative or a series of related facts

*Keep in mind that this is only a "point-in-time" assessment, and should not be construed as more than that. The standards for certification vary with each competency, and may take practice to understand and/or demonstrate consistently. The combined analysis of the reviewers is provided below.*

**The certifiers identified the following ways in which the submission meets the certification standards:**

**Identified Opportunities for Connections to Meanings:**  
  
The program used **comparison of modern cultural adaptations to historic adaptations, examples of various people who lived in New Orleans, and ways the French adapted** (interpretive techniques) to develop opportunities for **understanding** (intellectual connections) and opportunities to feel **commiseration** (emotional connections) in relation to the following resource and its meanings: **Just like modern people who move to different cultures, the French had to adapt to the area's culture by learning, being open to and integrating with the area's native population and other inhabitants who came there.**  
  
The program used **map of the city and explanation of its location** (interpretive techniques) to develop opportunities for **recognition and insight** (intellectual connections) in relation to the following resource and its meanings: **Despite the swampiness of the area, the determination of New Orleans's founder helped enable the birth of a city that succeeded in taking advantage of the trade potential afforded by nearby waterways.**   
  
The program used **a map of the French Quarter and explanation of the king's intentions** (interpretive techniques) to develop opportunities for **insight and comprehension** (intellectual connections) and opportunities to feel **amusement, admiration, dismay** (emotional connections) in relation to the following resource and its meanings: **In spite of the command of King Louis XIV, the people of New Orleans exhibited an independent will and adapted the layout of the city to meet their need for economic success.**  
  
The program used **examples of architecture and building modifications, stories of the smells in the courtyard and the comeback from disasters (fire, hurricane)** (interpretive techniques) to develop opportunities for **discovery** (intellectual connections) and opportunities to feel **admiration** (emotional connections) in relation to the following resource and its meanings: **Resilience and resolve in the face of multiple disasters are still evident in the architecture of New Orleans as its people faced various challenges through time.**  
  
**Identified The Cohesive Development of a Relevant Idea(s):**  
  
The program presented the relevant idea that: **From its founding, the establishment and evolution of New Orleans has been successful, in part, because the citizens have been resilient and innovative to adapting when confronted with adversity.** This idea was cohesively developed in the following way: **Visitors were initially asked if they believed that New Orleans would ever recover after Hurricane Katrina. Carrying visitor answers from this question forward served as a pathway to discuss how the cultures of the city have always been a resilient and adaptive people. Various examples of hardship such as initial settlement, fires, and even a king's command were cited. Solutions to how citizens overcame these cultural and environmental obstacles in creating and sustaining a city that served their needs illustrated the adaptive and resilient nature of the people. In concluding, the talk came back to the flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina and how the city has continued to adapt, indicating the people are as resilient as they have ever been.**  
  
  
**Suggestions or Additional Comments:**  
*The certifiers may not be familiar with your park or the specific constraints of your program. Their suggestions are intended to offer ideas which may or may not be adaptable for your program. Please consider these coaching ideas with an open mind toward how your program might be strengthened.*  
  
Opportunities for emotional connections to resource meanings  
**While opportunities were found for emotional connections to resource meanings, these opportunities might be strengthened by sharing the voices of New Orleans with visitors. Quotes are a strong way to build emotional connections. Are there quotes from King Louis regarding his reasons for wanting control or are there quotes from Jean Baptist about his motivation for choosing this location? Perhaps further discussing how swamp land was converted into a city below sea level could further create opportunities for visitors to experience surprise, amazement, wonder and/or awe at the immense challenge of making this happen.**   
  
Other suggestions or comments  
**Perhaps visitors could be asked how far would they go to continue living where they are? How would they adapt to each of the hardships faced by New Orleans? Would they give up or share the same creativeness and resilient spirit to adapt? Confronting visitors with these questions, and perhaps facilitating a dialogue about these answers, may enable visitors to connect to the resource with a higher degree of personal relevance. It may also create stronger opportunities for visitors to forge emotional connections related to the resource as they consider how they feel about their own home/city/town.**