



Independence: The Best Park in History

Germantown Boys and Girls Club Joins INDE for First Bloom

Throughout this Spring, Independence National Historical Park (INDE) participated in *First Bloom*, a pilot program aimed at connecting children to parks and the parks to their neighborhoods. A partnership initiated by the National Park Foundation with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and Boys and Girls Clubs, *First Bloom* introduces children to native plants in ways that will help them develop strong links to our national treasures and help them develop a sense of pride, ownership and cultural identity with their national parks. One of five national parks selected for the project, Independence NHP



INDE Deputy Superintendent Darla Sidles plants with student Jonathan Dillard.

First Bloom participants had a chance to sink their hands in the soil. They worked after school removing weeds from the project gardens around Carpenters Hall. They learned about Earth Day and the reasons it is celebrated. They also learned how invasive plants can out compete native plants by playing a game called “The Weed Relay.” Landscape Architect, Susan Edens and Grounds Supervisor, Steve Murphy shared their expertise and lent a hand with removing the weeds.



March 20, 2008, Nature Walk in INDE

worked with children from the Germantown Boys and Girls club, introducing them to the National Park Service’s mission of protecting and preserving our natural and cultural areas. Special thanks to INDE Interpretive Ranger Joanne Schillizzi, who represented the park throughout this project.

In March, the children spent a day exploring the park. Ranger Schillizzi led the children on a nature walk through the park where they learned about the benefits of native plants to wildlife and the adverse impacts of non-native plants on the environment. The children learned about plant care by planting seeds and seedlings in cups, which they brought home at the end of the day. Earlier in the month, the children had visited the Academy of Natural Science’s live butterfly exhibit, where they learned about the life cycle of butterflies and their role as pollinators.

A few days before Earth Day, the



Earth Day, April 18, 2008

On May 20th, volunteers from ARAMARK joined park staff and the children in planting the garden with native plants that not only attract pollinating insects, but also have historical significance to the area. A luncheon was held to celebrate the completion of the project. The children will now take their new knowledge and create their own native garden in their community.

New Learning Labs for the Independence Park Institute

This summer will see the completion of the new IPI learning labs at 325 Walnut Street as well as the Archeology Learning Lab at the Independence Living History Center. The archeology lab will provide students a hands-on exploration of what we can learn through archeology by focusing on James Oronoco Dexter. As part of this program, students are given copies of archival materials about Dexter, as well as replica artifacts to catalog to determine what these can tell us about this African- American coachman who lived on 5th street. Although Dexter is not a well known historic figure, his life story reflects the struggle of African-Americans to enjoy the freedoms expressed in the Declaration of Independence. With the public archeology lab located in the same building as the IPI lab, these students will then get a chance to see professional archeologists doing those same hands-on activities as they catalog the artifacts from the National Constitution Center dig, including the artifacts from the Dexter site.

The new IPI location at 325 Walnut Street will provide space for programs on the Liberty Bell, the Assembly Room of Independence Hall, and the story of the Underground Railroad in Philadelphia. While preliminary plans are in place for these classrooms, there is much exciting work ahead before we will be able to use this classroom to prepare students for tours of the park. Select the "For teachers" link from the park's home page to see a collection of lesson plans to help prepare students for visiting the park.

Children in 18th Century Philadelphia

In Independence National Historical Park, the historic presence of children is evident through representations of their education, work, and play. At the Bishop William White House (309 Walnut Street), the family's five young children--Elizabeth, Mary, Thomas, William, and Henry--played in the parlor and bedchambers while their father worked upstairs in his study. Educational experiences varied. Children were taught at home by their mothers or tutors. Families of means like the Whites provided their sons with formal schooling outside the home. Up 4th Street near Carpenters' Hall, was a Quaker charity school (outlined today with a raised brick planting bed full of ivy) for both free African and white children. Evening classes for apprentice tradesmen were held in the Free Quaker Meeting House at Fifth and Arch Streets. Beyond Philadelphia, at the Deshler Morris House (5442 Germantown Avenue), Nelly and "Wash" Custis lived with President Washington and their grandmother, Martha, during the summer of 1794. While Nelly was educated at home and acquired the

accomplishments of an upper-class lady such as needlework or playing the harpsichord, Wash was required to attend Germantown Academy.

At the Todd House (343 Walnut Street) lived lawyer John, his wife Dolley, and their two young sons, John Payne and William Temple. Dolley likely gave birth to her sons in her bedroom at home. Infant William Temple would have slept in the bedroom with his parents. John Payne likely shared a room with one of Dolley's younger siblings who also occupied the house. Pictured on this page are a cradle, pewter baby bottle, and a coral-and-bells rattle. People



believed that coral could protect a child against pain, death, and disease, thus making its use as a rattle a suitable toy and teether. In 1793, a devastating yellow fever epidemic swept through Philadelphia forcing Dolley, her two sons, mother, and younger siblings to take refuge outside the city. After the epidemic subsided, Dolley and her family returned to Philadelphia with the exception of William Temple who did not survive infancy, a common occurrence with children in the 18th century due to infection and disease. On the day that William Temple died, his father (back in Philadelphia) also died of yellow fever.



INDE Celebrates National Park Week With a Special Emphasis on Children

INDE celebrated National Park Week with a Junior Rangers program, a luncheon honoring the park's many volunteers, and Bring Your Child to Work Day.

On Saturday, April 26, INDE hosted a Junior Ranger Day. The park's Junior Ranger booklet plus a variety of special Junior Ranger quizzes were highlighted through a special display at the Independence Visitor Center. Children who completed special Junior Ranger activities were awarded special prizes. Special thanks to Mary Jenkins (Junior Ranger program coordinator), Jeffrey Collins, of the Independence Park Institute, and Cherie Butler, Supervisory Park Ranger at the Independence Visitor Center.



Todd Crane, son of Chief Ranger Ian Crane, tries out a Law Enforcement vehicle

That afternoon, INDE also honored our many VIPs -- Volunteers in Parks, that is! This annual recognition luncheon included special presentations by Jim Mueller, park historian, and Debbie Miller, who manages the volunteer program at the archeology lab in the Independence Living History Center.

Bring Your Child to Work Day also fell during National Park Week, and children of INDE staff were welcomed here at the park, as well as at various locations around the City. Below, Diane Brier of Macy's Hamilton Mall presents Anthony Crescenzo III (son of Anthony Crescenzo, INDE Chiller Plant Supervisor) with a "Kid Power Badge."



INDE Encourages Library and Archives Research by Researchers and Students

In addition to the many other people at Independence who assist visitors and researchers daily, our Library and Archives staff is a resource for young historians. Inquiries arrive via the reply card on our website, by telephone, by mail and in person. Some questions recur annually. In response to a frequently asked question about the dimensions of Independence Hall, our Archivist, Karen Stevens, has an assembled package of information at the ready.

Other inquiries are more unique. Since Pennsylvania revived its annual tradition of History Day, a research competition for secondary school students, Ms. Stevens has noticed a change in the complexity and quality of the questions she receives. Her role isn't merely to provide answers, but is also to direct young scholars to the sources of information.



Above, Interns in the Cultural Resource Management Division, Alex Bartlett and Bob Sands



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

Independence National Historical Park

143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

NPS Photographers:

George B. Feder, Top Guns Corporate
Photography
Park Staff

Comments? Write to:

Jane Cowley, INHP
143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone: (215) 597-0060
Fax: (215) 597-0042
Email: Jane_Cowley@nps.gov



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical Park
 143 S. Third Street
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

First Class Mail
 Postage and Fees
PAID
 City, State
 Permit number



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Upcoming Events at INDE

On June 13, INDE will join the Philadelphia Juneteenth Coalition to commemorate Juneteenth, with the day's activities culminating in an outdoor event at Washington Square.



On July 3, join us for another free evening performance of the Philadelphia Pops on Independence Mall.



On July 4, at 10am, the City of Philadelphia will celebrate Independence Day at Independence Hall, followed at 2pm by the Let Freedom Ring ceremony, sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution and the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration, which features the ceremonial tapping of the Liberty Bell.



On July 8, a park ranger will re-enact the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence on Independence Square.