

Spirit of Lincoln Youth Leadership Academy

Inspiring young people with a heritage based message of integrity and courage.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lincoln Home
National Historic Site



You cannot fail if you resolutely determine that you will not.
Abraham Lincoln, 1860

The spirit of Lincoln still lives.
Martin Luther King, Jr., 1944

“LINCOLN, COLORED WARRIORS, AND THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM”



On Saturday, August 3, 2013, Lincoln Home National Historic Site joined the larger Springfield community in honoring the contributions and sacrifices of the United States Colored Troops in a program titled “Lincoln, Colored Warriors, and the Spirit of Freedom.”



Lincoln Home NHS partnered with community mentoring programs including, **The Outlet, Phi Beta Sigma-Springfield, Springfield Frontiers, and Project Ready-Springfield Urban League** to present the youth component of the larger event. Youth activities included visiting Civil War encampments and listening to presentations about the Underground Railroad and the United States Colored Troops. The youth also



practiced marching in preparation for a police escorted parade through



downtown Springfield from Lincoln Home NHS to the Old State Capitol State Historic Site with Civil War reenactors. The day ended with a ceremony at Springfield’s Oak Ridge Cemetery where the youth placed flags at the graves of United States Colored Troops and other Civil War soldiers.



This program was presented by many community partners including, the **Abraham Lincoln Association, the Old State Capitol State Historic Site, the Sangamon County Historical Society, the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, and the United States Colored Troops Living History Association.**



Presenters throughout the day included, Jerrie Blakely, Yulanda Burgess, Jim Hunn, Mike Burke, Jason Boyd, Robert Bell, Andy Bowman, Hari Jones, Senator Richard J. Durbin, Robert J. Lenz, George Buss, Malcolm Beech, and Robert J. Davis.



“Lincoln, Colored Warriors, and the Spirit of Freedom” was a continuation of Lincoln Home NHS history based youth programming designed to provide young people in middle and high school with a positive message of heritage, integrity and courage through the presentation of stories of the past.



For more information, please contact Lincoln Home National Historic Site at 217-391-3222.

To see more images and a short video from the event, visit:

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