



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
National Historic Site  
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## National Park Service News Release

For Immediate Release  
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The Martin Luther King Jr., National Historic Site, in partnership with the Greening Youth Foundation (GYF), is hosting a local essay contest which challenges Atlanta-area students to answer a question: "If Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were alive today, how would he approach current environmental issues?"

Over the next three months, nine groups of young people will make a pilgrimage to the King Historic Site in a program that GYF is calling the Environmental Series at the MLK Jr. National Historic Site. Young people from the Atlanta Job Corps, the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Atlanta, the Girl Scouts Club of Metro Atlanta, and the Atlanta and Dekalb public school systems will be converging on the King Historic Site between March and early May. The public school students will be members of GYF's Eco-Force® Clubs that currently operate in elementary, middle and high schools throughout Metro Atlanta. During their visits, the young people will tour Dr. King's birth home, view the many exhibits and structures at the King Historic Site, and watch videos that explore the role of young people in the Civil Rights Movement.

"One of the reasons we think these visits are so important is that they will give many young people who typically would not be exposed to the site a chance to explore Dr. King's life and teachings," said Mike Fynn, GYF's Technical Director and the manager of the Environmental Series. "Many of them don't even live that far from the King Historic Site but have never had an opportunity to explore its many facets."

MLK Historic Site Superintendent Judy Forte said she is eager to hear from the young people. "I'm excited about this program because it gives the National Park Service an opportunity to hear from our youth on how we can help build a clean environment and how we can inspire them for a new era of service to our country."

Even before the students visit they will begin working on a video or electronic presentation to answer the question, "If Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were alive today, how would he approach current environment issues?" A Park Ranger from the King Historic Site will visit the Eco-Force® clubs to give them an overview of the National Park Service and the King Historic Site and explain to them the role the agency plays in the protection of the nation's natural and cultural resources. Student presentations will be judged and the best presenters in the elementary, middle, high, after-school, and most creative categories will formally recognized during a public ceremony at the Martin Luther King Historic Site located at 450 Auburn Avenue on May 7, 2010 from 11AM to 12:30PM.

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