

Natural or Cultural History along the Natchez Trace Parkway



Classroom and/or On-site Lesson: Cop a Gig for the Trace (code ACG)

- ▶ **Grade Level**
Any
- ▶ **Subject Area**
Community Service and any other subject area.
- ▶ **Setting**
Depends on project
- ▶ **Duration**
Variable- could be a yearlong project
- ▶ **Skills**
Variable
- ▶ **MS Objectives:**
Variable

Summary: Students will produce a community service media project about some aspect of the Natchez Trace Parkway and a National Scenic Trail. This is a highly variable lesson plan.



Materials Needed: Whatever it takes to make a computer or DVD production between 2 and 60 minutes long. Minimum would be a computer with a presentation program or a digital camera and computer to edit the video.

Instructional Information

This is a community service project in that it assists the Natchez Trace Parkway and National Scenic Trails in raising awareness of the national parkway that runs through Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. National Parks have limited means to raise awareness and teach people about this national treasure.

MS Objectives: These will vary with the subject matter being addressed. Besides community awareness, subject areas covered could include animals, plants, history, American Indians, Natchez Trace Parkway,

Mississippi Studies, art, and music.

Learning Objectives: Vary with subject area.

Teacher Set:

Raise awareness for your local portion of the Natchez Trace Parkway. Help your students produce a media presentation that promotes the Natchez Trace Parkway and the National Scenic Trails! Show it in your school, other area schools, day care, etc., or even the public library. Be sure to send a copy of it to the Natchez Trace Parkway, Division of Interpretation. Maybe the Natchez Trace will even feature it on its website. If we get enough, we will make a compilation DVD that will be available to the public. If we get enough quality products we will host a multi-media festival!

If there are local media production resources, perhaps they could be enlisted to help develop a production.

Some ideas to spark imagination:

Stills put into a Power Point type production

- Shots of stills compiled into a video format
- School kids' artwork from different grade levels/ media types
- Photos of Natchez Trace Parkway and National Scenic Trails
- Poetry, music, nature sounds as background music

Live production:

- Music Video
- Video/still mix

- Hip-hop video
- Cheers
- Song and dance
- Mini-documentary
- Non-fictional Skit about boatmen, postal rider, etc.
- Fictional story about boatmen, postal rider, etc.
- Present or film a “live news report” about an event on the Natchez Trace.

Final production should be able to be shown on a DVD.

Teacher Overview: This is an excellent example of a Middle School project supporting the Everglades National Park is available at http://www.evergladesplan.org/get_involved/ecotour_2010.aspx

Many photos are available through the Natchez Trace Parkway Division of Interpretation. Photos may be available at www.nps.gov/natr.

Student Instruction: Variable with project selected by students or teacher.

Student Task: Variable with project selected by students or teacher.

Teacher Closure: Put it on your school website or on YouTube. Show the video(s) to other classes, host a viewing at the public library, and submit a copy to the Natchez Trace Parkway, Division of Interpretation, 2680 Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS 38804. 662-680-4027

Student Assessment: Student participation.

Suggestions for re-teaching: Have students invent a project if they had unlimited funds and resources.

Extension: Have students design a project that they would do if they had unlimited funds.