



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contact:

National Park Service: Daniel Downing, Chief of Interpretation, Education & Operations,
Daniel_downing@nps.gov or phone 734-243-7136

National Park Foundation: Marjorie Hall, mhall@nationalparks.org or phone 202-354-6480

**RIVER RAISIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK SELECTED AS 2012 NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION
AMERICA'S BEST IDEA GRANT RECIPIENT**

***River Raisin National Battlefield Park joins 48 National Parks across
the country to participate in the National Park Foundation's 2012 program!***

Monroe, Michigan, May 3, 2012 – River Raisin National Battlefield Park has been selected as one of 49 national parks participating in the 2012 [America's Best Idea program](#) sponsored by the [National Park Foundation](#), the official charity of America's national parks. Inspired by the critically-acclaimed Ken Burns documentary, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, the America's Best Idea grant program funds park projects designed to connect diverse, under-engaged populations throughout the United States with their national parks in innovative and meaningful ways.

"We are proud to provide the much needed support to create unique opportunities for all Americans to personally connect with their national parks," said Neil Mulholland, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. "The America's Best Idea grants are often the catalyst for extraordinary experiences that develop into lifelong relationships with our national parks for the program participants."

"We are extremely excited to receive this grant, which will enable us to implement new partnerships designed to engage Wayne and Monroe County school students with the powerful history of River Raisin National Battlefield Park," said Scott J. Bentley, Superintendent of River Raisin National Battlefield Park. "Because of the generosity the National Park Foundation's America's Best Idea Program sponsors, thousands of school students will have the opportunity understand the importance and impact of the Battles of the River Raisin and War of 1812 in ways they will forever remember."

Remembering the Raisin – From the Classroom to Sacred Soil – will engage youth from all walks in life in the stories held in America's newest National Battlefield Park. Students will learn about one of the most under told and poorly understood world wars in America's history – The War of 1812. Eight teachers selected by the Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency and Monroe County Intermediate School District will join curriculum specialist, assessment experts, graphics and multimedia whizzes, and historians to develop educational units for the 3rd, 4th, and 8th grades. Each unit will include a full week of lesson plans that take students and teachers on a journey to Frontier America as they explore the

history that defined multiple nations in North America. Once developed, the Monroe County ISD videography experts will work with the Battlefield to develop a series of video casts to support the curriculum. The new curriculum will be available to all Michigan school teachers, and teachers throughout the world, at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. The new programs will be launched with a series of interactive field trips to the Battlefield lead by participating teachers and made possible by the generous funding of the National Park Foundation!

For a full listing of participating parks and program descriptions, please visit the [National Park Foundation website](#).

The National Park Foundation and **River Raisin National Battlefield Park** wish to thank L.L. Bean, DISNEY, the Anschutz Foundation, and the Ahmanson Foundation for their generous support of the America's Best Idea program. The National Park Foundation and River Raisin National Battlefield Park would also like to thank the Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency, Monroe County Intermediate School District, Monroe County Historical Society, and the Friends of the River Raisin Battlefield for making this project a reality!

For more information on the [National Park Foundation](#) or how you can support and protect America's national parks, please visit www.nationalparks.org.

For more information about **River Raisin National Battlefield Park** please visit www.nps.gov/rira.

Authorized in 2009 and established in October of 2010 as America's Newest National Battlefield Park, River Raisin National Battlefield Park remembers, commemorates, preserves and interprets the January 1813 battles of the War of 1812 and their aftermath. Although American forces were victorious in the first battle, the second ended in the most disastrous defeat for the U.S. during the war; a devastating loss that included mass killing of the wounded. One of the most historically significant event to emerge from the battles was the cry, "Remember the Raisin!" which persuaded forces to fight successfully at the Battle of the Thames later that year. The American victory at the Battle of the Thames sealed the War of 1812 in the western theater for the Americans; however, it claimed the life of the great Shawnee leader Chief Tecumseh. -NPS-

About the National Park Foundation. You are the owner of 84 million acres of the world's most treasured memorials, landscapes, ecosystems, and historic sites -- all protected in America's nearly 400 national parks. Chartered by Congress, the National Park Foundation is the official charity of America's national parks. We work hand in hand with the National Park Service to connect you and all Americans to the parks, and to make sure that they are preserved for the generations who will follow. Join us in supporting your national parks -- this is your land. www.nationalparks.org

###