

TEL Broadcast
Conducted Activities – Walks and Tours
Interpretive Development Program
May 22, 2008 12:00-4:00 PM EDT
Participant Guide

(TEL POC's -- please make sure that participants at your site receive this information)

Session Instructors:

Neil Howk, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Paul Ollig, Montezuma Castle National Monument

Contents of this guide:

- **Pre-course reading assignments and handouts**
- **Links to other helpful resources and references**
- **Course Description and Goals**
- **Competency Descriptions**

Your pre-session prep-time for this broadcast – approximately 60 minutes

Participant materials and references:

I. Pre-course readings and handouts for use during the TEL broadcast

Please print these handouts, read them, and bring them with you to the broadcast:

- Developmental Worksheet – “Program Self-Assessment – Conducted Activities”
<http://www.nps.gov/idp/interp/210/210selfassessment.pdf>
- Developmental Worksheet – “Opportunities for Intellectual and Emotional Connections”
<http://www.nps.gov/idp/interp/101/ConnectionOps.doc>
- Developmental Worksheet – The Interpreter’s Toolbox: Involvement Techniques
<http://www.nps.gov/idp/interp/210/210wksheet.pdf>
- Please read the **competency description** for Conducted Activities
(see below)

NOTE: For a review of foundational interpretive theory, you may wish to access the on-line course entitled “Foundations of Interpretation” at www.parktraining.org. You may wish to review this material in-depth in the workbook entitled “Meaningful Interpretation,” edited by David Larsen. “Meaningful Interpretation” can be purchased through Eastern National at (877) NAT-PARK or (877) 628-7275 or <http://www.easternnational.org/meaningful.htm>.

II. Links to other useful tools and references – explore on your own:

- Interpretive Process Model
<http://www.nps.gov/idp/interp/101/processmodel.pdf>
- Developmental Worksheet – “Program Organization”
<http://www.nps.gov/idp/interp/101/progorgwksheet.pdf>
- Interpretive Themes
<http://www.nps.gov/idp/interp/101/themes.pdf>

Course Description:

Participants will analyze examples of effective interpretive walks and tours and consider how these programs can provide meaningful, memorable visitor experiences that immerse the audiences in the resources. The session will also provide tools and strategies to help interpreters plan/present these types of programs.

Goals for the Course:

During the course participants will:

1. Analyze and discuss the characteristics of conducted activities and how to capitalize on the unique opportunities of these programs.
2. Explore the power of words and the power of place in developing effective programs.
3. Learn the value of resource immersion and specific techniques which can help direct the visitor experiences.
4. Explore tools and strategies for developing and organizing compelling interpretive programs.

Competency Description

Conducted Activities

Context

Conducted activities bubble over with potential for facilitating enjoyable experiences that help motivate visitors to leave site resources unimpaired for future generations. Through immersion in the resource, opportunities to understand the meanings of the site intensify, creating lasting memories. This course describes the components of successful conducted activities and provides instruction on developing conducted activities bursting with opportunities to discover the relevance and significance of the site.

Competency Description

The Conducted Activity is a prepared, formal program that involves the planned physical movement of an audience from one place to another. This movement can take a variety of forms: walks, hikes, house tours, canoe trips, bus tours, cave tours, and other types of guided programs. Through directed experiences that intentionally integrate interpretive narration with resource immersion, conducted activities deeply engross and engage the visitors with tangible resources and their meanings.

Interpretive techniques for providing directed experiences may include demonstrations, games, role playing, questions, sensory involvement, group interaction, use of spontaneous moments or other techniques. When effectively presented, directed experiences provide opportunities for the audience to form their own intellectual and emotional connections to resource meanings.

Intentionally planned directed experiences progress from location to location to develop an idea relevant to the audience and the resource. The cohesive development of a relevant idea happens through the careful sequencing of directed experiences, the incorporation of the physical resources, and the use of transitions to link the experiences together at each stop. Through immersion in the resource and a cohesive sequence of interpretive opportunities, the conducted activity offers a physical and conceptual journey that can lead to greater awareness and appreciation of the resource.

Conducted activities provide flexibility for the audience to interact spontaneously with the resource, the interpreter and with each other. Appropriate presentation logistics and advanced communication skills allow the interpreter to facilitate an effective and safe immersion experience for the visitor in the particular resource and type of activity.