



Footsteps for Freedom™

Student lessons along the
Overmountain Victory
National Historic Trail

Introduction

This set of materials is intended to help teachers use history to educate children. Specifically, these materials enable teachers to use the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail to meet enumerated curricula requirements in Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Health and Physical Education, Science and Guidance.

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail involves communities in four states that lie along a corridor of 330 miles. The Trail includes both walkable sections and a commemorative motor route. Along the way are visitor centers, museums, historical markers, state and national historical parks, graveyards, monuments and geographic landforms. They all help tell the story of an event critically important to the success of the American Revolution.

The enclosed materials include 18 activities, four tests and the identification of specific goals these activities help North Carolina teachers achieve. These goals are those listed in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. These materials represent the first effort to create a curricula-based education program about the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. In the future, other versions of these materials may be created in support of the curricula standards for the other states through which the trail passes—Virginia, Tennessee and South Carolina.

These materials were created in a joint project between the National Park Service and the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, Inc. Funding was provided through the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program. The matching contribution of in-kind services was provided by Kings Mountain District Schools. Four teachers cooperated with OVTA's contractor in conducting a workshop, creating the materials and pilot testing them with 4th-grade students in the fall of 2003. Special recognition and appreciation is due teachers Beth

Sellers, Kim Parker and Liz Garr for their commitment to helping create these materials and test them with their students at North Elementary School. Dana Drennan also helped during part of the project.

OVTA contracted with Randell Jones to manage the project. He was a member of OVTA. He had previously created, written and produced the 12-episode serial *Footsteps for Freedom*™ on a volunteer basis intending it to be available free-of-charge. That material has been available on the OVTA website (www.OVTA.org) since fall 2001. The enclosed curricula-based materials are a logical extension of making that serial a useful tool for teaching history, math, language arts and, of course, the story of the Overmountain Men of 1780. The curricula-based materials and the 12-episode serial are available as PDF files free-of-charge at www.nps.gov/ovvi.

Teachers are invited to use these materials to meet their teaching needs and to offer suggestions for improvement. Please provide general feedback on the content and quality of these materials. NPS expects to revise and improve these materials continually to make them the most useful to teachers. One of the long term goals of this program is to create an opportunity for student classes in one community to contact and to interact with student classes in another community of the trail corridor. If you have ideas and suggestions about how best to do that or if you want to share your experience in using these materials, please contact:

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Overmountain Victory
National Historic Trail
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