



# Education Update Spring 2011

Bi-Annual Newsletter of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Education Branch

## Hike Leaders Needed to Share their Passion of the Outdoors!

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in collaboration with Jefferson County West Virginia Middle Schools continue to build their hike program. Started as a community initiative in 2007 this program's mission is to re-connect young people to nature and all of the associated mental and physical benefits. Currently, students visit the park to take part in short (2 hour) or long (4 hour) hikes led by rangers and volunteers from the community. The benefits for the students, schools and hike leaders are tremendous. Hiking the trails in the parks renews an interest in nature and the outdoors, provides an opportunity for exercise and learning opportunities not available in the classroom and builds community.

With the growing popularity of this program and requests for hikes, there is a need for additional volunteer hike leaders. All hikes have some sort of theme, but the key goal is being out in nature, hitting the trails, and getting kids moving. Hike leaders are free to choose what passion they want to share about the outdoors with the students. A sample of past hike themes include GPS use, topographical map reading skills,



Tiger on the Trail with Harpers Ferry Middle School

geology, plant/animal identification, calorie counting, history, poetry, art, etc.

Hikes vary from easy to strenuous. The level can be selected by either the school or by the hike leader. Longer more strenuous hikes might include Maryland or Loudoun Heights while others are done on flat terrain such as the C&O canal. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer hike leader be assured that there is something for everyone!

Please contact Amber Kraft in the Education Branch at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park at (304) 535-6293 or e-mail her at [Amber\\_Kraft@nps.gov](mailto:Amber_Kraft@nps.gov) if you are interested in assisting us with this important community outreach program. She would love to talk to you and tell you more about this program and how you can help. Your support will make a difference in the lives of many students and we would love to hear from you soon!

## A Note from the Teacher's Desk: Amber Kraft, Education Specialist

This is an exciting time in the Education Branch at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (HAFE) as we gear up for Spring field trip season, our Summer Institutes for Teachers as well as special events to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. Our Spring Season is on the books to be one of the busiest on record!

The education staff at HAFE is committed to providing high quality, interactive learning experiences for the school children and their teachers who visit the park. Programs are based on the stories and resources of the park, and aligned with the curriculum that teachers must follow in the schools.

These learning experiences provide the opportunity for students and teachers to experience both science and history in an engaging, immersive learning environment with many opportunities for hands-on activities and critical thinking while collaborating with their peers.

We look forward to seeing you in the park!

Amber Kraft  
Education Specialist

## 2011 Summer Institutes for Teachers



2010 Summer Institute Participants have joined the local militia and are practicing drill.

### Harpers Ferry: The First Year of War June 26-July 1.

This week long institute gives educators the opportunity to incorporate technology into their teaching. After exploring the Civil War events that occurred between Virginia's secession on April 17, 1861 through the end of March 1862, podcasts and digital storytelling will be developed for a final project. Participants will investigate ways to teach across the curriculum and use multiple hands-on techniques. *Three hours of graduate C&I credit available from Shepherd University (\$115 fee).* Applications can be found at [www.nps.gov/hafe/forteachers/professionaldevelopment.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hafe/forteachers/professionaldevelopment.htm).

### War Comes to Harpers Ferry: 1861

8-week online class beginning July 4 includes a 3-day workshop at Harpers Ferry NHP July 23-25. Together the APUS graduate course and the Harpers Ferry NHP workshop will take an in depth look at a defining period in U.S. History. Beginning with the April 17, 1861 secession of Virginia from the U.S. and the destruction of the U.S. Armory and Arsenal there the next day, through the end of March 1862, teachers will study occupation and battle that marked

Federal control of the town and surrounding area. *Three hours of graduate history credit available from APUS (\$225 fee).* Visit [www.apu.apus.edu/lp/agreements/harpers-ferry/index.htm](http://www.apu.apus.edu/lp/agreements/harpers-ferry/index.htm) to register.

### Bridging the Watershed (BTW)

*An outreach program of the Alice Ferguson Foundation in partnership with the NPS June 13-17.* Participants study the ecology of the Potomac watershed and learn to incorporate BTW curricula into their classrooms. The BTW curricula offers opportunity for students to engage in field science methodology with current technological tools. Field and classroom work will take place at Antietam NB, C&O Canal NHP, Harpers Ferry NHP, and Monocacy NB. *Participants are eligible for a \$700 stipend upon completion of all requirements. Three hours of graduate credit available from Catholic University (\$300 fee).* Visit [www.fergusonfoundation.org](http://www.fergusonfoundation.org) for details and applications.

*Watch for information about our upcoming after-school professional development series! Programs will focus on history (fall 2011) and science (spring 2012).*

# Education Program Commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Burning of the US Armory at Harpers Ferry

As we move into the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War, students are discovering that those events of the past are not so far removed from the present. While many education programs spark an interest in history, “Under Fire, A Civil War Story” creates an everlasting link for students to the decisions facing families in Harpers Ferry.

Students team up into families who lived and worked in Harpers Ferry 150 years ago. After choosing who will portray each person, students retrace the steps of actual citizens in their new identities. They face the challenges of war and the decisions that must be made. Articles of period clothing are distributed and students have



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Education Update is the biannual newsletter of the Harpers Ferry NHP Education Branch. The Education Branch at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park offers education programs geared toward wide and varied audiences. Programs connect participants of all ages to the resources and stories of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

their family portraits taken in the style of the 1850s. Once done, family groups decide if they can brave the hardships of staying in Harpers Ferry or if they should seek refuge elsewhere.

The five families represent the diversity of real people who walked the streets of Harpers Ferry, worked in the factories, and ran popular businesses. They represent immigrants, slaves, freed African-Americans, the working class, and the wealthy elite. They represent a single working mother with three daughters and a father suffering with the recent death of his wife.

Examining the unique situations these families face living in Harpers Ferry at the outbreak of the Civil War engage in critical thinking by asking them to contemplate what they would do if placed in those circumstances and learning what choices people had available. Students consider questions such as, “What might happen to them if they stay in Harpers Ferry? Do they have enough money to leave and start a new life in a new town? What

will become of their home if they abandon their property?” The conversations students have in their families encourage students to think beyond the obvious threats and discover the hidden challenges of civilians during war.

This program asks a vital question – will the family stay or go? Each situation is different and often the family members do not agree on the final decision. Once the decision has been made, though, the family makes an announcement to the rest of the town. As each family shares their choice, they learn what actually happened to them 150 years before and get to see some of the places where these people lived and worked. No matter the result, these students come away with a sense of the dangers presented to civilians and the impact one decision can have on an entire town.

This powerful program is appropriate for grade levels 4-12 and lasts approximately 1.5 hours.

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## Educator Resources Online

Information on fieldtrips to Harpers Ferry NHP  
<http://www.nps.gov/hafe/forteachers/planafieldtrip.htm>

Classroom resources including podcasts, vodcasts  
<http://www.nps.gov/hafe/photosmultimedia/multimedia.htm>

National Park Service and Harpers Ferry based Jeopardy Games  
<http://www.nps.gov/hafe/forteachers/curriculummaterials.htm>

Applications for 2011History & Science Summer Teacher Institutes  
<http://www.nps.gov/hafe/forteachers/professionaldevelopment.htm>

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### Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

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PO Box 65  
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## Now Accepting Summer Intern Applications

The education department at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is proud to announce our 2011 summer internship positions available for college undergrad and graduate students.

This is an excellent experience for anyone interested in gaining experience in education, public history or environmental science! Interns may be eligible for free dormitory housing and a weekly reimbursement. Please pass the word along to any students that you feel would be a good candidate.

Other park internships are also available in the areas of Living History, Visitor Services, Curatorial Services, Volunteer Program Management, Natural Resources,

Information Technology, Historic Landscape Architecture, and Ground Maintenance.

Applications must be postmarked by March 1 and must include a cover letter, resume and three references.

For more information and application instructions please go to [www.nps.gov/hafe/supportyourpark/internships.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hafe/supportyourpark/internships.htm) or contact the park's volunteer coordinator, Jess Liptak, at [Jessica\\_Liptak@nps.gov](mailto:Jessica_Liptak@nps.gov).

### Spread the Word

Tell all the teachers you know about the fun and exciting programs being offered by the Education Staff at Harpers Ferry NHP!

