



Minutes

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

3-4 p.m. CST

Call-in phone number: 877-784-6085 Passcode: 3388423

I. Introductions

Karla Sigala, Interpretive Specialist (karla_sigala@nps.gov, 402-661-1826)

Jill Hamilton-Anderson, Education Specialist (jill_hamilton_anderson@nps.gov, 402-661-1824)

Nichole McHenry, Volunteer Program Manager (nichole_mchenry@nps.gov, 402-611-1810)

II. Trail Talk Purpose

- Connect interpreters/educators/volunteer managers
- Share ideas and resources
- Build relationships/networking
- Gather information/needs/happenings
- Communicate the current make-up and direction of the Trail

III. Guest Speaker(s) – Sue Pridemore, *National Park Service Midwest Regional Partnerships Office*

Sue works with heritage areas to uncover their unique, one-of-a kind story. Today we will dialogue about the relevancy of your site to and in your neighborhood and how that can be tied to the big story.

Sue's expertise includes the development of professional volunteer groups, board development, gathering a more diverse base of stakeholders, measuring success, site planning and the assessment of visitor readiness.

Sue began her conversation about linking relevancy from a site to the community surrounding a site by asking participants to share their top 3 most desirable goals to achieve at their sites if money was not an issue. She found that all participants wanted something in common...to share something unique and special about their site that their audience may or may not know and a desire by each to find out how to share it so their audience also sees its importance to the community and to the greater good.

Sue also challenged participants by asking the question, “Who are the owners of your story?” Seeking the answer demands an introspective look into the relevance of one’s site and story. Does a story belong to an individual? An organization? A community? A people? Can a story belong to everyone from everywhere? Can we find a way to create relevancy of a local, sometimes unknown story, to a universal audience? How do we accomplish this? How do we wrap our story up, tie it with a bow and give it away to another generation?

This concept of “Who are the owners of your story” leads Sue to charge participants to come up with strategies to give our stories away to the young people of the next generation. Sue advocates surveying young people to find out what intrigues them. She believes in the power of Education programs, Service-Learning opportunities, and experiential programs to enlighten youth about the importance of place and time.

Thanks to Sue for leading an intriguing discussion and Trail Talk participants for sharing your afternoon with us.

IV. Trail Notes

<http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/>