



IPI Update Summer 2007

Quarterly Newsletter of the Independence Park Institute

The Liberty Bell: A Symbol for “We the People” 2007 Summer Institute for Teachers

The Liberty Bell is known around the world as a symbol of freedom, but how did that come to be? The twenty educators who participated in this year’s summer institute for teachers, *The Liberty Bell: A Symbol for “We the People”* can tell you that and a whole lot more.

From July 23-27, teachers from NY, NJ, PA, and DE learned about the bell, its history, and the groups who have used it. They explored Independence NHP and interacted with the experts who study and care for the bell today as well as historians who research its past and members of groups who use the bell’s symbolism to this day.

Participants also wrote some wonderful lesson plans over the course of the week so that teachers across the country and around the world will also be able to benefit from their new found knowledge about the Liberty Bell. The K-12 teacher guide and lesson plans developed during the institute are designed to be used alone or in conjunction



2007 Summer Institute Participants in Independence Hall

with our new Liberty Bell Learning Lab that is scheduled to open in the spring of 2008.

The new teacher guide with lesson plans will be field tested in classrooms this fall and then will be available on the Independence Park Institute website in the spring.

Partnerships That Work: Independence National Historical Park and Historic RittenhouseTown – From Paper to the Press

On June 20, Independence National Historical Park and Historic RittenhouseTown (HRT) partnered to offer a five hour professional development workshop for teachers.

The day started at HRT where area educators toured the site of America’s first paper mill, learned how paper was made, and then got to make their own piece of paper using the same basic techniques that were used in the 18th century. After enjoying a picnic lunch on the beautiful grounds, participants boarded a van headed to

Independence National Historical Park.

Here the focus changed from the production of paper to its consumption. Participants engaged in a lively discussion about the power of the press, its role in 18th century America, and its changing role today. They visited the Franklin Court Printing Office to learn the process of printing and then got hands-on experience setting type and trying other Franklin activities in the Benjamin Franklin: Man of Many Talents learning lab.

All participants received five hours of continuing education credit for this workshop.

Are you interested in hearing more about opportunities like this in the future? Join our e-mail distribution list! Just send an e-mail to inde_education_comments@nps.gov.



Workshop participants making paper

**A Note from the Teacher's
Desk: Amber Kraft,
Education Program
Developer**

***"The sun never shined on a
cause of greater worth."***

These immortal words from Thomas Paine's Common Sense are also my feelings on the Independence Park Institute (IPI). There is nothing more important than the education of our children. They are the future and they will be the ones to protect and preserve the past.

It is a goal of the IPI to help students understand the importance of learning about the past and preserving historic structures, documents, and objects for future generations through fun, hands-on, interactive education programs.

Although the IPI has been up and running for several years now, it would not and cannot continue to be successful without the support of many organizations, teachers, staff and dedicated volunteers. Those who support the IPI understand that we have a big job ahead of us and it will take all of us working together to accomplish our goals.

The staff of the IPI is always open to your suggestions, comments, and questions as we strive to make our education programs and resources the best they can be.

Sincerely,

Amber Kraft
Education Program Developer

National Educators Association Annual Meeting and Expo

From June 30- July 2 the Independence Park Institute (IPI) and National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Regional Office of Interpretation and Education collaborated by providing a NPS presence at the National Education Association's Expo in Philadelphia. This was a great opportunity to share the educational resources available at Independence National Historical Park and other NPS sites across the country with educators from many different backgrounds.

Over the course of the three days, we spoke to hundreds of educators. Everyone was very interested to learn about the educational resources available to them. Many shared with us memories they have had in National Parks over the years and many expressed an

interest in volunteering during the summers.



Mary Ellen Snyder from Fort Necessity NHS talks with an educator

If you would like to know more about the educational resources offered by Independence National Historical Park or other NPS sites or about becoming a volunteer, please feel free to contact us at 215-597-2760.

Federal Executive Board Gold Medal For Electronic Field Trip Partnership



Amber Kraft, Education Program Developer with Federal Executive Board Gold Medal

Independence National Historical Park was awarded a Gold Medal for Private Sector Involvement from the Federal Executive Board 2007 Excellence in Government Awards Program.

Not every student gets a chance to visit Independence National Historical Park; however, with help from Ball State University and the National Park Foundation, about 20 million students from all around the world were able to visit the park from their homes and schools. On October 17, 2006, students from all fifty states and several foreign countries participated in the Electronic Field Trip *Freedom in America: Some Assembly Required*.

To view this exciting program, visit:
<http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=824>.

First Fridays at the Galleries of Independence

The Independence Park Institute proudly presents its first adult education series, *First Fridays at the Galleries of Independence*. Beginning on June 1st and ending on November 2nd, the first Friday of each month will feature a different program in the Second Bank of the United States Portrait Gallery. Programs begin at 7:00 PM.



July 6 Who is here? Park rangers Steve Perlman and Jane Storsteen

Participants met John and Abigail Adams as they celebrated the Declaration of Independence.

August 3 Who is not here? Park Ranger Ray Harshbarger

Ranger Harshbarger will introduce participants to Tedyuscung, the last Great Chief of the Delaware tribe. Tedyuscung served his people much as Adams served the European colonists, but his portrait does not hang in the Second Bank.

September 7 How did 18th century Americans capture their images? Park Staff

Eighteenth century Americans visiting Charles Willson Peale's museum could have their silhouettes made on the physiognotrace. Peale's slave Moses Williams operated the machine and eventually bought his own freedom.

October 5 Meet some of the gallery's residents Park Ranger Patrick Kowicki

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark undertook one of the great explorations of their time. Participants will meet Lewis and Clark and others involved in this effort through a gallery tour and an illustrated talk.

November 2 Wrapping it all up! Park Staff

For the last session, park staff will lead participants on an insightful and delightful tour of all the Second Bank has to offer.

The registration cost is \$10 for each individual session. Enrollment is limited. Call (215) 597-2760 for more information on this and other IPI programs.

PA Act 48 and NJ professional development credit available for teachers!



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The IPI Update is the quarterly newsletter of the Independence Park Institute. The Independence Park Institute offers education programs geared toward wide and varied audiences. Programs connect participants of all ages to the resources and stories of Independence National Historical Park.

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Web Site
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www.independenceparkinstitute.com

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



Become an IPI Volunteer!

If you love history and children, you can find opportunities to enjoy both as a volunteer at the Independence Park Institute (IPI)! For four years I have worked with the wonderful people at the IPI. I have lead programs for students in grades K-12, assisted with the development of programs, and prepared materials for teachers' use.

Rosemary Lavin
Volunteer, IPI



IPI Volunteer Rosie Lavin with students

As a volunteer you will be able to choose how you can best contribute your time and skills.

Opportunities include:

- Lead education programs for K-12 grade students
- Assist with office work
- Develop new education programs and resources for teachers.
- Assist IPI staff with special events
- Assist IPI staff with family and adult education programs

Volunteering classes will be provided.

For more information please contact Amber Kraft by phone at 215-597-0264 or by e-mail at Amber_Kraft@nps.gov.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical Park
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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Comments?
Write to:
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Web Site: www.nps.gov/inde
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New 2007-2008 IPI Program Menu Available

It's here! The new 2007-2008 IPI Program Menu.

If you want to learn about

- distance learning
- professional development for teachers
- interactive standards-based education programs
- free self-guided programs for school groups and families
- ranger led special events
- adult education programs
- programs for families and children

offered by the Independence Park Institute be sure to check it out!

IPI program menus are available at the Independence Visitor Center, the Independence Living

History Center, at www.independenceparkinstitute.com, or by calling 215-597-2760.

Join our mailing list by e-mailing inde_education_comments@nps.gov and be one of the first to receive our quarterly IPI Update and information about upcoming programs, professional development opportunities, and more!

Spread the Word

Tell all the teachers you know about the fun and exciting programs being offered by the Independence Park Institute!

