



IPI Update Fall 2006

Quarterly Newsletter of the Independence Park Institute

Freedom in America: Some Assembly Required An Electronic Field Trip to Independence NHP

On October 17, park rangers and student hosts were able to share the stories, history, and valuable resources of Independence National Historical Park with about 20 million viewers from all fifty states and the countries of Brazil, Malaysia, and Nigeria. Students were able to take a virtual trip to Philadelphia and visit the Liberty Bell, Congress Hall, and Independence Hall through two live broadcasts which were aired on local PBS stations across the country and viewable through a web cast on the Ball State University website. During the live broadcasts, students could call in with their questions which were answered live on air or write to the discussion forum where a bank of experts from Independence NHP were standing by to satisfy the students' curiosity.

Here is what teachers who participated in the electronic field trip had to say

about the virtual visit:

"My students have watched several webisodes and with each one they are excited and learn so much! They respond enthusiastically when Amber asks a question. Being so interactive entices the students to listen and try to answer all the questions. What a great way for kids to learn about American history and our government!"



Students at Cline Elementary School in TX visit Independence National Historical Park via the computer.

"The students are learning a lot! We have also begun to play the game on the EFT site. They love it and don't even realize how much they are learning, but if you listen to the conversation going on it is amazing what they are learning."

If you missed the live broadcast, you still have a chance to take a virtual visit. The *Freedom in America: Some Assembly Required* electronic field trip has been archived on the web at <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=824>. (Please note that you will need Quicktime® to view this program.)

This program was made possible with a partnership between Ball State University, the National Park Foundation, and Independence National Historical Park.

The EFT: Team Work at its Finest!

The recent Electronic Field Trip (EFT) *Freedom in America: Some Assembly Required* really illustrates what a great team the staff of Independence National Historical Park makes. This project involved staff from all divisions working together to accomplish a program that reached millions of virtual visitors across the globe. Staff members from Interpretation and Visitor Services (I&VS) and Cultural Resource Management (CRM) helped with content review of the website and the on-air portion of the show as well as staffing and filming. Administration helped with setup of phone lines, overtime, and other personnel matters. Maintenance assisted with setup for the show, running electric and phone cables, and keeping the buildings and grounds looking beautiful. Public Affairs made sure special use permits were all in order and press releases went out to interested area parties, and Resource and Visitor Protection (R&VP) processed security badges for the group. Without the assistance of any one of these divisions, the EFT would not have been the success that it was. It is a great privilege to work with such a dedicated staff! Thank you all for your support.

A Note from the Teacher's Desk: Frances Delmar, Supervisory Education Program Specialist

School is back in session and this year promises to be an exciting one! The Independence Park Institute started the new school year off with two live broadcasts from Independence National Historical Park on October 17 as part of an Electronic Field Trip sponsored by Ball State University and the National Park Foundation.

We are also looking forward to interacting with school groups visiting the park through formal programs offered in our new Independence Living History Center Education Facility. We hope that you bring your class to participate in one or more of our programs focusing on daily life in 18th century Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin, slavery and the Underground Railroad, or archeology. Please feel free to give us a call if you would like more information on these programs.

These Independence Park Institute programs would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of park staff and the constant help, support, and cooperation from our partners at Eastern National and the William Penn Foundation.

Thank you for being a part of history in the making!

Frances Delmar
Supervisory Education Program Specialist

Interpretation and Education Evaluation Summit

From October 24-26, Independence Park Institute (IPI) staff took part in the first ever National Park Service Interpretation and Education Evaluation Summit. This event took place in Denver, Colorado. Those in attendance included National Park Service (NPS) leadership, Regional Directors, Park Superintendents, Chiefs of Interpretation and Education, line staff, and NPS partners.

The goal of this summit was to discuss how to create a culture of evaluation within the NPS. Hopes, fears, strengths, and weaknesses were all discussed. Out of the variety of topics, many ideas were generated, two of which were paramount.

First, when creating evaluations for programs, those evaluations should be useful tools where real information can be learned. Second, it is acceptable if the expected results are not achieved in the evaluation and even failure is acceptable as long as we learn from mistakes and "fail forward." Evaluations should not be used to point fingers and place blame, but instead, be used to create the best possible products, programs, and services as possible.

As educators we often cringe at the word evaluation. Students think of tests and in today's environment, teachers, principals, and administration think of the high stakes tests that are used to judge student understanding and to justify funding for schools. As educators for the NPS, we understand why you cringe at the word evaluation and that you have

bench marks to meet, standards to teach, and scores to attain in the present environment. Because of the demands you face as classroom teachers, the education staff at Independence National Historical Park (INHP) wants to help you meet these needs, but also help your students learn how to learn, enjoy America's special resources protected in our park, and create a sense of stewardship and a love of learning. We at the IPI invite you to participate in our curriculum based education programs and then let us know if they have helped you in your work. If they did, how? And perhaps more importantly, how can we improve?

Please take an active role in developing the education programs at INHP and provide us with feedback on our pre/post visit lessons, on-site school programs, website and field trip planning resources, self-guided tours or Drop-in Packets, and professional development programs.



Area educators participating in a Summer Institute for Teachers at Independence NHP

Archeology at Independence National Historical Park



Students participating in *Archeology: History Found in Pieces* program

In celebration of October's Pennsylvania Archeology Month, the education staff at the Independence Park Institute (IPI) put together a list of some great

resources for learning about archeology at Independence NHP. Archeology is one of the many ways that historians learn about the past and it is integral to the mission of the National Park Service.

Archeology in Independence NHP
www.nps.gov/inde/archeology/archeology3.htm

Franklin Court Archeology
www.nps.gov/inde/Franklin_Court/index.html

James Dexter site
www.nps.gov/archive/inde/archeology/dexter2.htm

Along with these websites, please stop by the Independence Living History Center to talk with and watch archeologists at work cataloguing more than a million artifacts from the site of the

National Constitution Center.

The IPI also offers an interactive curriculum based education program called *Archeology: History Found in Pieces* for students in grades 5-12. Please call 215-597-2760 or visit www.independenceparkinstitute.com for more information on this or any other IPI program.



Students talking with archeologist Jed Levin in the Independence Living History Center Archeology Lab



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
www.nps.gov/inde
www.independenceparkinstitute.com

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

IPI Website – A Helpful Resource



Students participating in a Field Trip to the Liberty Bell

Are you planning a field trip to Independence National Historical Park? The Independence Park Institute would love to help! Please check out our website at www.independenceparkinstitute.com for great field trip planning resources.

On the website you will find information about our formal education programs, self-guided

themed tours or “drop-in packets,” information about films shown at the Independence Visitor Center, where to eat lunch, how to get tickets for Independence Hall, and much more! Plus, if you don't find the information you are looking for, please give us a call at 215-597-2760 and our friendly staff will be happy to assist you in any way we can.



Students visiting the Franklin Court Printing Office



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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Comments?
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Call: 215-597-2760

Web Site: www.nps.gov/inde
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Teacher's Discounts Available at EN Bookstores

Are you looking for some great new resources for teaching history in your classroom? Independence National Historical Park can help. Teachers are able to get a 15% discount on books, reproduction documents, posters, and much more at all Eastern National parks stores.

This great 15% teacher discount is also available at all stores company wide so be sure to look for Eastern National stores when visiting other National Parks across the country.

This offer is for any teacher with ID, so stop on in and check out what great books and resources are available!

Within Independence National Historical Park these stores are located at the Pemberton House (on Chestnut Street between 3rd and 4th Streets) and Franklin Courtyard (on Market Street between 3rd and 4th Streets).

Spread the Word

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

