



IPI Update Spring 2006

Quarterly Newsletter of the Independence Park Institute

Family Programs offered by the IPI

The ultimate goal of the Independence Park Institute (IPI) is to connect learners of all ages, both intellectually and emotionally, to the resources and stories of Independence National Historical Park. One way that the IPI accomplishes this is by offering periodic programs for families.

As a national park, it is especially important for us here at Independence NHP to teach our younger visitors about the importance of preserving our national heritage and the cultural and natural resources that tell the stories of our great nation. As such, the theme of this year's National Park Week (April 22-30) is "Connecting Our Children to America's National Parks." We know that the Independence Park Institute will be one of the ways we accomplish this now and in the future. On Saturday, April 22, the Independence Park Institute offered programs throughout the day to

help kick-off National Park Week. Families got to take on the role of historians researching 18th century life in the *Historians in the Making* Learning Lab. They also got the opportunity to color a Liberty Bell, an NPS arrowhead, or create an original artwork having to do with an NPS site.



April 22 NPS Week Program

The Independence Park Institute is also partnering with the Friends of Independence National Historical Park to offer two family-friendly programs for the Philadelphia Open House Tours.

On Saturday, May 27, families can participate in a program called *Rediscovering the 18th Century*. In this program families will examine documents, images, and artifacts to learn about the lives of 18th century Philadelphians.

On Saturday, June 3, families can try out one of the IPI's newest learning labs, the *Benjamin Franklin: Man of Many Talents* Learning Lab with the *Discovering Franklin: America's Favorite Founding Father* program. Participants will get to explore Franklin's life through hands-on activities like playing a glass armonica, experimenting with electricity, and learning to set type.

Both Philadelphia Open House (POH) Programs cost \$10 a person. To find out more information or to register for a POH program, call the Friends of Independence National Historical Park at 215-861-4971.

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



Two years ago I had the privilege of participating in the early planning for formal IPI programs. My career then took me on another path, but now I'm excited to be back with the IPI as it moves forward and completes the first three learning labs in the Independence Living History Center.

The education programs at Independence would not be possible without the generosity of the William Penn Foundation and the commitment of Eastern National, the senior management of Independence National Historical Park and of the Northeast Regional Office of the National Park Service.

Jr. Ranger Ambassadors Initiative

This summer, Independence National Historical Park is proud to have a Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern for approximately 12 weeks starting in June. This intern will help to create a new Junior Ranger program for Independence National Historical Park and improve the Junior Ranger program at the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site.

The intern will be working out of the Independence Park Institute (IPI) office, under the supervision of the Supervisory Education Program Specialist.

We are looking forward to the project because updating the current Junior Ranger program at Independence National Historical Park is long over due.

The Independence Park Institute received a National Park Foundation grant for this summer's Junior Ranger Ambassadors Initiative. The initiative is a service-wide program sponsored by the NPS Washington Service Office Education staff and the National Park Foundation.



Creating the Independence Park Institute @ the Independence Living History Center Independence NHP Maintenance on the Team



The maintenance staff at Independence National Historical Park is a very important part of the Independence Park Institute (IPI) team. Painters, electricians, wood crafters, masons, plumbers, and custodians have all made and continue to make major and important contributions of the IPI. Among many other things that the maintenance staff has done for the IPI, they have created the walls that make the learning labs. The painters have the whole place looking like new. Electricians have made sure that the rooms

are well lit, wood crafters have made collection cases for the *Archeologist in the Making* Learning Lab and type cases and composing sticks for the *Benjamin Franklin* Learning Lab, and the masons and plumbers removed an old water fountain. The custodians make sure that our students always have clean restrooms and hallways. The Independence Park Institute staff would like to thank these dedicated professionals for their continued support.

Room Still Available for Spring 2006 Book a Program Today!



Historians in the Making Learning Lab at the Independence Living History Center

The *Daily Life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia* program is ready for your class. In this program, students get to take on the role of historians as they research the 18th century using hands on activities and primary source documents.

This program is for students in 5th-8th grades. The program is offered

each day at 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 2:00 PM.

There are pre-visit and post-visit lesson plans that go along with this program. These lesson plans can be found at www.independencenationalhistoricalpark.org

If you would like to book a program or receive more information on this or other IPI programs, please call 215-597-2760.



Freedom in America: Some Assembly Required

An Electronic Field Trip to Independence National Historical Park



On October 17, 2006 you and your class can take an exciting Electronic Field Trip to Independence National Historical Park. An electronic field trip is comprised of three parts: classroom lessons that are based on national teaching standards, an interactive website that is full of interactive and informative activities, and a live TV program that is broadcast to students in classrooms all over the world.

During these broadcasts students are encouraged to call in or e-mail their questions during the show where they will be answered by our bank of experts.

This 60-minute program is offered to students in grades 5-9 and will broadcast at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. EST. Students will get a chance to explore the story behind the Liberty Bell, see documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and many others up close. They will get to learn about the struggle to create the United States and how that struggle continues today.

Check the "Best Buy Children's Foundation" box on the online registration form as your method of

payment and participate for FREE! The Best Buy Children's Foundation will pick up the \$75 cost for the online curriculum associated with each Electronic Field Trip.

For more information or to register for this exciting distance learning opportunity, check out www.bsu.edu/eft/ or call 866-279-8716.

This program is made possible by a partnership between J-Ideas, the National Park Foundation, the National Park Service, and Ball State University.



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

Frances Delmar moves into the Supervisory Education Program Specialist Position

Frances Delmar is the new Supervisory Education Program Specialist and head of the Independence Park Institute starting May 1st. Frances has had many past experiences that will be a great asset to her in her new position.

Frances came to Independence NHP from the private sector where she worked as a consultant and ran an Elderhostel program for several years.

In 1995 she took a position at Independence National Historical Park as the West District Ranger where she oversaw the daily operations and visitor experience on Independence Square. She was also involved in the early development of the IPI. She organized many summer teacher institutes and helped secure funding for the Independence Park Institute concept.

Frances then moved into the position of Acting Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services where she coordinated all I&VS projects and services. She next took on the ambitious task of heading up the Partnership Office at Independence NHP. Lastly, Frances took on the role of Public Affairs Officer in addition to her partnership duties.

This vast array of knowledge and experience will help her to lead the Independence Park Institute into the next phase. We are excited to have Frances joining the IPI team!



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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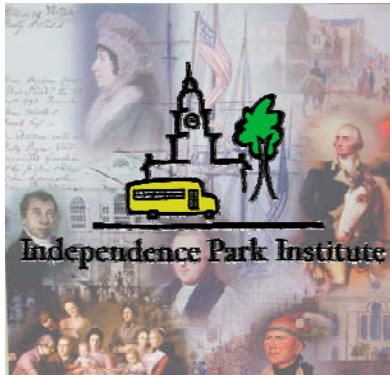
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Summer Institute for Teachers: July 2006



The competition was tough and the decisions were hard, but the Independence Park Institute has selected twenty lucky educators to participate in our 2006 Summer Institute for Teachers. Teachers were selected based on their applications. The IPI received applications from teachers in five different states. The participants will each receive a \$300 stipend, books and other teaching

materials, and field trips to sites in and around Independence National Historical Park.

Thank you to all of you who applied for the Daily Life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia Summer Institute! In addition, thank you to all who let others know about this opportunity and please apply to our future institutes.

Spread the Word

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

