



IPI Update Spring 2007

Quarterly Newsletter of the Independence Park Institute

Professional Development at Independence National Historical Park

Are you looking for professional development opportunities that offer both subject matter content and practical classroom application? If so, professional development at Independence National Historical Park may be just what you are looking for!

The Independence Park Institute (IPI) at Independence NHP offers a wide range of professional development opportunities.

The IPI will work with school districts applying for Teaching American History Grants and provide them with full day or half day professional development programs as well as assistance in planning their trip to Historic Philadelphia and Independence NHP. More information and sample schedules for these programs can be found at www.independencenationalhistoricalpark.org.

Throughout the year the IPI offers



Ranger Joanne Schillizzi and teachers in Congress Hall during part of an IPI professional development program.

themed workshops and behind-the-scenes tours for educators. Here is what one participant had to say about *A Curator's Look into 18th Century Life*, a professional development workshop that took place March 3, 2007. **"...a very worthwhile experience! The presenters were very knowledgeable and eager to share their work with us. I truly enjoyed this 'behind the scenes' look at 18th century life."**

Each summer the IPI offers a week long summer institute for teachers. The themes change annually so there is always something new to learn. The topic for the 2007 institute is *The Liberty Bell: A Symbol for "We the People."*

If you are interested in learning more about the professional development programs offered by the IPI visit our website or call 215-597-2760.

It Takes Teamwork! Public Affairs Officer, Jane Cowley

You have heard it said that "No man is an island," and that sentiment certainly rings true in the Independence Park Institute (IPI). Getting the word out about the programs and opportunities offered by the IPI is possible in large part thanks to the work of Dr. Jane Cowley, Public Affairs Officer at Independence NHP.

Jane is responsible for the Park's

public and media relations and partnership activities. She works closely with friends and partners of the Park to further develop the close working relationship between the Park, City, State and community. Her contacts and know-how are invaluable to the IPI.

Before joining the National Park Service, she was Deputy to Ambassador Tahir-Kheli, Senior

Advisor to the Secretary of State on UN Reform.

Jane has also taught anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, George Washington University, and the Community College of Philadelphia.

Jane is a great resource to the IPI and we would like to thank her for all that she contributes.

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

You as educators know that there is never a dull moment when it comes to students. Here at the IPI, we had even more excitement when the Royal Couple paid us a visit. A very lucky group of fifth grade students got to learn about the Liberty Bell and share their knowledge of the Bell and its symbolism with Prince Charles and Camilla.



The Duchess of Cornwall and the Prince of Wales meet with students from William Loesche Elementary school.

That is not where the excitement ends! The IPI has many new programs and opportunities for teachers, families, and students on the horizon. A recently released Junior Ranger program is now available for visiting kids to learn more about the park in a way that is meaningful to them. The program can be picked up at the Independence Visitor Center or downloaded from the "For Kids" section of the park's website. During National Park Week in April, families can participate in special programs. Also, upcoming professional development days and our Summer Institute for Teachers all keep the IPI a very active place!

There is always something to get excited about at the IPI! We hope that you will join in the excitement with your class, family, and fellow educators.

Our partners at Eastern National, the William Penn Foundation, and the staff of Independence NHP are all essential to the great programs we are able to offer. Their support is greatly appreciated! They are truly something to get excited about.

Amber Kraft
Education Program Developer

Independence NHP Long Range Interpretive Plan Completed!

By Steve Sitarski- Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services

After almost two years of planning with park staff and partners, Independence National Historical Park has completed a strategic plan for the future of interpretation and visitor services. The Long Range Interpretive Plan is based on an assessment of where we are and where we hope to be in the near future. This important document defines the new park themes, describes the desired visitor experience, lists issues and challenges, and identifies our audience. More importantly, the document lists specific actions the park will take to meet our vision for the next 5 – 7 years.



Visitors listening to a Liberty Bell talk given by Park Guide Michelle Haas

The new plan identifies four primary park themes that ask what was so revolutionary about the American Revolution, examines both the promises and paradoxes of liberty, illustrates the democratic nation of diverse people with different cultures, beliefs and political ideas, and takes another look at the relevant revolutionary – Benjamin Franklin.

The Long Range Interpretive Plan also identifies targeted audiences. This is important so that programming, media, and facilities

can be shaped to address their interests and needs. Among those targeted audiences, families, teachers and school groups rank in the top three. The new plan also addresses the importance of curriculum-based education.

Independence NHP is supported through partnerships with many local organizations. The park's interpretive staff engaged hundreds of park staff and key partners throughout the planning process. This collaborative effort produced a more comprehensive and inclusive look at how we will interpret America's birthplace to tens of millions of park visitors in the future.

To preview the new park themes and learn more about this important plan, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/inde and press on the link to management documents. Long Range Interpretive Plan full color booklets that showcase the park sites and ranger programs are being printed and will be available by this summer.



Park Guide Arnold Marshall with group outside Independence Hall.

Celebrate National Park Week with the IPI

Each year the President proclaims a week in April as National Park Week. This week is to celebrate, recreate, and enjoy all the National Parks have to offer.

National Parks are our nation's treasures. They protect and preserve some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the world, protect wildlife and our cultural history. They provide places for the public to come and learn. There are currently 390 national park sites across the country and they are owned by you, the citizens of the United States. They are protected for our children and for our children's children.

This year National Park Week is April 22-29 and the theme is "Your National Parks: Explore, Learn, and Protect." We hope that you do just that. Celebrate National Park Week by participating in a **Family Fun Day** program on Saturday, April 21 or Saturday, April 28. Programs will take place at the Independence

Living History Center located at the corner of Third and Chestnut Streets. Families can register to participate in interactive, ranger-led programs.

At 10:00 AM visitors can search for clues into Benjamin Franklin's life by experiencing the activities Franklin did and by using some of his inventions. Families will explore Franklin's life and work through hands-on activities like playing a glass armonica, setting type, and trying some of Franklin's experiments.

At 12:00 PM young historians and their families will take on the role of an NPS historian as they examine documents, objects, and images in order to learn about life in Philadelphia during the 18th century.

At 2:00 PM families can discover more about the life of a free-African-American named James Dexter as they piece together the stories of the buried past from replica artifacts.

They will even have the opportunity to talk with real archeologists.

Participants will receive an official Jr. Ranger Day patch and certificate at the completion of each program. The Junior Ranger Program is designed to introduce young people, to the national parks.

Reserve your program time today by calling 215-597-2760. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Payment must be received one week in advance.



Ranger Ed Welch with students visiting Independence NHP



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.

New Junior Ranger Program Available

Are you looking for something fun to do with the family? Want to introduce your children to the wonders of our national parks? Then come out this spring to Independence National Historical Park (INHP)! INHP is excited to announce its new Junior Ranger Program, which is now available from the Independence Visitor Center and on our website, www.nps.gov/inde.

The new Junior Ranger booklet has activities for children ages 5 and up. Our young friends and their families can attend ranger programs and complete activities from the booklet. Participants who complete at least 1 ranger program and 5 booklet activities will earn a Junior Ranger badge. Activities are related to locations throughout the park and include word scrambles, dot-to-dot, bingo, matching and more... as well as activities to do at home.

Our new Junior Ranger program was developed through the National Park Foundation's Junior Ranger Ambassador Initiative. The INHP program was created by Courtney Vanous, a Student Conservation Association intern who worked with the IPI in the summer of 2006.

This Junior Ranger booklet was created through the partnership of the NPS, the National Park Foundation, and the Student Conservation Association and was made possible through the generous support of Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., a National Corporate Partner of the National Park Foundation.

To learn more about the online Junior Ranger program, visit www.nps.gov/webrangers.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Spring into the IPI This Spring!

This Spring is a great time to take advantage of the education programs and resources at Independence NHP!

Here is what some educators have had to say about IPI education programs.

“...a wonderful hands-on experience for students. It really brings history to life in an interactive and fun way.”
-5th grade teacher

“My class enjoyed our trip very much. I think that the ranger did a great job of dealing with the class. We will be sure to schedule a trip again next year. It was a great experience!”
-2nd grade teacher

With five great programs to choose from, there is something here to fulfill your field trip needs. For more information on how to book your education program at Independence National Historical Park please visit www.independenceparkinstitute.com or call 215-597-2760. We hope to see you soon!

Spread the Word

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

