



IPI Update Spring 2005

Quarterly Newsletter of the Independence Park Institute

The IPI is Offering Four Exciting Programs for the 2005-2006 School Year

For the first time, the Independence Park Institute (IPI) will be offering five different programs for school groups at Independence National Historical Park! Teachers will register their classes to participate in a program before coming to the park. Once they register for a program, they will be encouraged to do the pre-visit activities with their class that are found on the IPI web site.

While the students are visiting the park, they will get to participate in a one hour program led by rangers in one of the newly completed learning labs at the Independence Living History Center. All programs are curriculum-based and meet state and national standards of learning.

Programs can be paired together to expand the student experience while visiting the park. Program fees start at \$5.00 per person. These nominal program fees will be used to directly support ongoing education program needs.

Daily Life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia is for grades 5-8. In this program, students will learn to unravel the secrets of history as they take on the role of historians. Before their field trip to the park, students will use web-based activities to learn about daily life in four households in 1790s Philadelphia. During their site visit, students will continue their role as historians as they examine documents, objects, and images in order to learn about life in the past.

Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia is a K-12 program in which students learn about Franklin's main contributions to

Philadelphia and to the new nation. During their site visit, classes will use their time in the learning lab to explore Franklin's life and work through hands-on activities like playing a glass armonica, setting type for a printing press, and experimenting with electricity.

Archeology: History Found in Pieces is geared for grades 5-12. Students in this program will get to take on the role of archeologists and piece together the stories of the buried past. They will get hands-on experience from replica artifacts and then have the opportunity to see real archeologists at work processing artifacts from the dig at the National Constitution Center.



In **Quest for Freedom: Slavery and the Underground Railroad in Philadelphia** (grades 7-12), teachers use pre-visit lessons and activities to provide important background knowledge about African cultures, the Atlantic slave trade, abolitionists, and the Underground Railroad. During their site visit, classes explore related stories and resources of Independence National Historical Park by taking a walking tour or experiencing an illustrated program that focuses on Philadelphia's connections and significant contributions to anti-slavery efforts in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Interested groups can get more information regarding our 2005-2006 school year programs by calling the IPI information line, **215-597-2760**, or by looking on our website which can be found at **www.independenceparkinstitute.com**



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Informal Programs offered by the Independence Park Institute

There are many informal education programs currently being offered by the Independence Park Institute. These programs cover a wide range of topics and are meant to help visitors get more out of their visit to Independence National Historical Park.

Families and small school groups can use drop-in packets to navigate around the park while learning about Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.

The IPI provides drop-in packets to teachers, parents, and chaperones on the day of their visit. These packets can be picked up at the Independence Visitor Center at the corner of 6th and Market Streets.

While on Independence Square, visitors can pick up a self-guided architecture tour from any ranger. This self-guided tour will help explain what the square looked like in the past, and how the buildings and landscape have changed overtime.

During the winter months, the Independence Park Institute offered hands-on learning programs for families and small school groups. In January and February, programs focused on Franklin. Participants learned about Franklin's contributions to fire safety in Fragments of Franklin Court and about Franklin the inventor by looking at some of Franklin's inventions in the Underground Museum.

For the month of March, the hands-on program focused on a day in 18th century Philadelphia. Children who came to this program learned what it was like living in 18th century Philadelphia by examining reproduction 18th century clothing, games, and household necessities.



Independence Park Institute

Now it is easier than ever to find out what is going on at the Independence Park Institute (IPI)!

The IPI now has a teacher information line. This is a phone number that teachers can call to get information about upcoming programs and events, request information, or to ask questions. This new number is **(215) 597-2760**.

The Independence Park Institute also has a new updated web site. You can access this site by going to www.nps.gov/inde and following the link to the education programs or by logging on directly to independenceparkinstitute.com. This is the web site that teachers and group leaders will use to access information about trip planning, events, and educational programs and opportunities.

Word that the Independence Park Institute will be up and running for the fall is getting out. The IPI now has a menu of school programs that will be offered for the 2005-2006 school year. These menus, along with our new business cards, are distributed by rangers to teachers who request information at the visitor center. We also have folders that are now used to distribute information about IPI educational programs.



New Education Offices at Franklin Court

In December, IPI offices moved from the Merchants Exchange Building to the Franklin Court Market Street Houses. The new office space was

All About the IPI!

required to provide room for two education program developers who started their 120 day detail the first week of December.



Ed Welch and Amber Kraft

Ed Welch and Amber Kraft were the first two program developers to join the team and Rick Starr became a part of the education branch more recently. The education staff have been busy working on both formal and informal educational programs and publications.

Daily Life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia Field Test

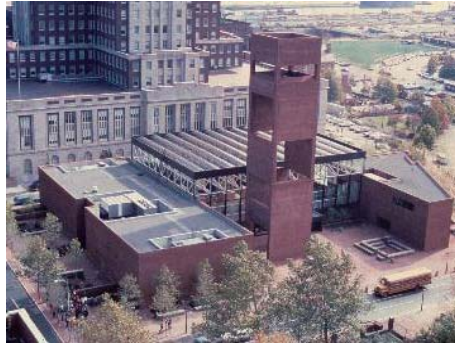
During the month of May, 5th -8th grade students and their teachers will be visiting Independence National Historical Park to field test the IPI's newest program: *Daily Life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia*. Students will get to develop an understanding of 18th century Philadelphia by exploring stories of real people and their daily lives.

Before their visit, the students will complete pre-visit lessons for this program which are web-based and focus on the stories of the Todd, White, Forten, and Washington families during the 1790s in Philadelphia.

Teachers participating in this field test will fill out evaluation forms and share samples of student work. The IPI staff will collect and analyze this data in order to evaluate the program's success, and make changes to improve it.

Independence Living History Center

The IPI Education Center at the Independence Living History Center is located on Third Street between Walnut and Chestnut Streets. This building was formerly the visitor center for Independence National Historical Park. Built in the 1970s, it is now being renovated to house the Independence Living History Center.



Independence Living History Center

The Independence Living History Center is a multi-use facility that will house the IPI Education Center, as well as provide theater productions from Historic Philadelphia Incorporated's "Once Upon a Nation" and a public archeology lab that will process and catalog artifacts from the excavations at the National Constitution Center site.

The IPI learning labs will give students the opportunity to experience hands-on, interactive programs and be immersed in history. The three learning labs will focus on archeology, 18th century life, and Benjamin Franklin. Over 20,000 school children per year will be able to

participate in the IPI education programs at this facility when it is fully operational.

Everyday visitors who find themselves in the Independence Living History Center will also have many options available to them. They can be a part of the discovery by watching and interacting with archeologists. Furthermore, theater productions will be offered by Historic Philadelphia Inc. as part of "Once Upon a Nation".

With so much to offer, the Independence Living History Center is sure to become a landmark of Independence National Historical Park!



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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Phone
215-597-2760

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

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

Benjamin Franklin and the American People Summer Institute for Teachers of Grades K-12



This summer, 25 lucky educators will get to participate in the Summer Institute for Teachers which is going to be held at Independence National Historical Park from July 11-22, 2005. Teachers will get to learn about Franklin, take field trips to historic sites in the Philadelphia area, earn continuing education credits, and learn to prepare students for Ben's 300th birthday which is coming up in 2006!

This two-week workshop is being presented in partnership with the Capital College of Penn State University and is being funded by a "We the People" grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

All participating teachers will receive a \$500 stipend, books, and other teaching resource materials on Franklin to use with their class as well as a wealth of knowledge on one of our greatest founding fathers.



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The Independence Park Institute is in Full Swing!

Recently, there has been a flurry of activity in the Independence Park Institute (IPI). The IPI is the education branch of Independence National Historical Park.

The ultimate goal of the IPI is to connect all learners, both intellectually and emotionally, to the resources and stories of Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Franklin Court, and the many other sites at Independence National Historical Park that center on the ideas and events that led to the American Revolution and the founding and growth of the United States of America.

Rapid progress is being made with the Independence Living History Center (ILHC). When finished, this

building will be home to three IPI Learning Labs that focus on archeology, Benjamin Franklin, and 18th century Philadelphia. Construction is on schedule and the center should be open to the public on Memorial Day. IPI education programs will begin in the fall of 2005.

Publications promoting the IPI and its upcoming programs have been designed and published. These will let teachers know about our exciting educational offerings for the 2005-2006 school year. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter to learn more about current IPI projects!