Enduring Struggle for Freedom
2017 Youth Camps Participation Survey

We are beginning to plan the 2017 Youth Camps!

Our Youth Camp offers groups of 4th and 5th grade Boys and Girls Club students, from the heritage area, a chance to visit various partner sites as well as a day of kayaking. The camps are guided chronologically along with our themes of The Settlement of the Frontier, The Border War, Civil War and finally the Enduring Struggle for Freedom.

We are still in the process of finalizing the exact locations for camp as well as which units of the Boys and Girls Club can accommodate us this year, but we are asking for your assistance. If your site would be interested in having the camps come to you this summer please go to the survey monkey link below.

Survey link:
Please be aware that we cannot guarantee that we will come to your site, as we have to balance the schedule of many sites while maintaining the themed timeline.

We will try to make it to as many sites as we can in order for the students to get the best experience possible.

If you have any questions please email Lani

Save the Date
January 31: Deadline to nominate a historic preservation project or advocacy effort. Visit the EPA Website for more details
February 1: Deadline for Interpretive Grant Consultation
February 15: Deadline for Interpretive Grant Applications

Featured Conferences, Workshops and Webinars
January 9 - March 6: Leadership and Administration in History Organizations, AASLH Online Course
January 17: Social Media 101 for Museums and Historic Sites, AASLH Webinar
March 22-24: Missouri Conference on History, Springfield, MO

For more information on these and other upcoming conferences and workshops, or webinars, please check our website.

Partner Site Signage

A quick reminder to all of our partner sites that we have in our possession a handful of previously ordered "Partner Site" signs. If you are expecting a sign, please follow up with Ana to finalize your payment and we will get the signs to you right away. If you are not sure, please drop me an email to Doug, and he will follow up with you.

Also, if you would like to place a new sign order for your site, please send an email to Doug. We can order any size or quantity needed. Newly ordered signs will take several weeks for fabrication and delivery. Note: We do have a couple of extra "Partner Site" signs (36" x 6", high-pressure laminate) that can be yours immediately!

Save the Date
January 19: Partners Meeting, Johnson County Library, Overland Park, KS
January 31: Deadline to nominate a historic preservation project or advocacy effort. Visit the EPA Website for more details
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To apply for a scholarship, complete this application.

Classifieds
Educational Outreach Intern & Summer Camp Director, Warmn! Majors House Museum. This position is for a single person, with a stipend available for the summer portion. Visit our website for more information.
Partner Meeting Recap:
http://conta.cc/2iXXP2b

Partner Meeting Live Stream:
https://www.facebook.com/pg/FreedomsFrontier/videos/
Engaging Our Representatives
By Jim Ogle, Executive Director
Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area

All of us are challenged to find ways to effectively tell our stories to those who vote on our appropriations. This note outlines one way we used here at Freedom’s Frontier to reach out.

A short bit of background. Like many of you, our founders organized Freedom’s Frontier on a partnership model. Museums and historic sites make up our primary partners. Each tells one or more of three nationally significant stories: the settlement of the frontier, the Border War and Civil War on the western frontier and the enduring struggle for freedom. Because we shine the spotlight on partners, our offices and exhibit are not a destination site, per se.

We received a call from Rep. Lynn Jenkins (R-KS) on a Wednesday that she was available to come by for a short visit the following Monday. Her scheduler indicated she expected we would have a 20 minute or so sit down with her showing her a PowerPoint about Freedom’s Frontier followed by anything else we would like to show her.

We decided to take a different approach. No PowerPoint. No sitdown.

We set it up as a "walkabout" in the British style. Partners and staff located at separate tables and displays would be our focus and tell our story. While I escorted Rep. Jenkins and her chief of staff from table to table, I made only brief remarks and introductions.

We told everyone, partner or staff, to approach this visit with these three points in mind:

- No more than a 90-second elevator speech on their program.
- Each table had at least one "touchable" element—something that would trigger more than just the analytic part of the brain and give a sense of discovery.
- Explain in 60 seconds why Freedom’s Frontier was essential to the project.

Even with such short notice, we had six partners who agreed to set up a table. We joined them with six displays on programs that Freedom’s Frontier staff administers. After describing this approach to the scheduler, she added an additional 40 minutes to the Congresswoman’s visit because of the valuable experience we created.

The following pictures show how we executed the visit.

Topeka Heartland Visioning Executive Director John Hunter told the story of the progress on creating an Oregon Trail riverfront park.
Managing Director Julie McPike explains our plans for signage throughout the heritage area.

Liz Hobson, Education and Interpretation Manager and Lexi Ray, Camps Coordinator, explain our youth programs to Rep. Jenkins. This includes our new coalition with the Greenbush education cooperative.
Barbara Higgins-Dover tells Rep. Jenkins how she uses a Freedom’s Frontier grant to help her interpret the Kansas Riverkings Museum.

Kathleen Morgan from the Lawrence Public Library Foundation shows Rep. Jenkins how a grant from Freedom’s Frontier is helping support the Lawrence Race Project.
I show Rep. Jenkins our display about how the Kansas Jayhawks got their name. History can be fun!

Jo Bogan of The Kansas African-American Trail and Mark McCormick of The Kansas African-American Museum tell Rep. Jenkins and Patrick Leopold, her chief of staff, about how Freedom’s Frontier is a key partner in establishing the Trail.
Henry Fortunato explains how the Burroughs Creek Trail will be developed in Freedom’s Frontier’s “Hikes Through History” program.

Nathan McAlister shows Rep. Jenkins how his students created a mural honoring the story of the First Kansas Colored soldiers.
One big benefit was the number of Freedom’s Frontier trustees who joined the tour. Rep. Jenkins poses with Trustees and staff.

When she had finished, Rep. Jenkins had spent an hour with our partners. She expressed her genuine thanks and surprise at viewing the diversity of our displays, our programs and meeting with partners and trustees. Nothing showed that more than when Rep. Jenkins told me while she walked to her car that she just did not realize how many different programs in which we were involved. She pledged her help in working with Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) in getting HR 1002 passed.

Rep. Jenkins had co-sponsored our legislation in each of the past two Congresses. She has also joined us at one of our youth camps in the summer. Each year, we meet with her about our programs in Washington as part of the Alliance’s annual meeting. Even with all those efforts at outreach, we believe that this effort did a better job of connecting her with the diversity of our programs and their scope in her congressional district.