

Alexandria Archaeology Museum

The Alexandria Archaeology Museum at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center preserves Alexandria's archaeological resources and educates the public about these historic treasures. Students can watch archaeologists washing, sorting and cataloging artifacts, and learn that our environment provides many hidden clues to human history.

Topics: Archeology, history

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: The Museum's programs address Virginia standards of learning.

Resources

- * Archaeology Adventure Lessons hands-on field trip program (grades 2 through 12)
- * Preparation and follow-up activities
- * Archaeologists at Work: A Teacher's Guide to Classroom Archaeology (K through 12)
- * Fact sheets, maps, and online materials
- * Speakers, lectures and symposia
- * Newsletter and e-mail bulletins
- * Summer camp (ages 12 through 15) and afterschool and weekend youth programs
- * High school and college internships (unpaid)
- * Community service learning
- * Public Dig Days and excavation site tours. Contact the Museum for a schedule.
- * Laboratory and exhibits
- * Summer Field Session in Historical Archaeology for graduate and undergraduate students, through George Washington University: www@gwu.edu/summer

Notes

- * Group reservations required.
- * Sign language interpretation available with one week notice.

Location and Getting There

Torpedo Factory Arts Center, Alexandria Waterfront

Metro: DASH routes 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 from King Street (Blue and Yellow lines)

For More Information

Education Coordinator

Phone: (703) 838-4399

Fax: (703) 838-6491

E-mail: archaeology@ci.alexandria.va.us

Address: 105 N. Union Street, Studio 327, Alexandria, VA 22314

Web site: www.alexandriaarchaeology.org

Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture – Smithsonian Institution

The Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture raises awareness of the historical experiences and cultural expressions of people of African heritage living in the Americas. Exhibits change frequently, so there is always something new to explore.

Outdoors, the Dr. George Washington Carver Nature Trail winds through the hardwood forest of adjacent Fort Stanton Park. Trail walks offer students opportunities to learn about Dr. Carver and about how to become steward of the Earth in their neighborhoods.

Topics: African-American history and culture, ecology, forests, streams, environmental ethics

Serving: Pre-K through college

See also: George Washington Carver Outdoor School, page

Standards: Exhibit-related programs address national, DC, Maryland and Virginia standards, with some variations.

Resources

* Curriculum materials

* Teacher workshops are usually exhibition-based and address local content standards (credit hours for DC, Maryland and Virginia).

* Speakers, lectures, symposia and films

* George Washington Carver Nature Trail Walk addresses local and national content standards, and explores issues in Earth science and urban ecology. Co-sponsored by the George Washington Carver Outdoor School. Open to groups of up to 30. (K through 8) For reservations, call (202) 287-3246.

* On-line exhibits and academy

* Guided tours, exhibition-related programs and activities. Captive Passage: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Making of the Americas addresses national, DC, Maryland and Virginia standards in American History, focusing on slavery, the antebellum South, and Reconstruction.

* Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Program

* Summer Academy (ages 7 through 12) covers the history of Anacostia; African-American culture; and computer, reading and writing skills. Free for children residing in Wards 6, 7 and 8.

* High school and college internships (some paid). Contact the Museum or the Smithsonian Office of Fellowships and Grants: (202) 275-0655; e-mail siofg@si.edu; or www.si.edu/ofg

Notes

* Group reservations required for tours and programs.

* Sign language interpretation available with at least two weeks notice.

* Museum is wheelchair-accessible, but the trail is not.

Location and Getting There

Metro: bus W2 or W3 from Anacostia (Green Line)

For More Information

Education Specialist

Phone: (202) 287-3369 or 4246

Fax: (202) 287-3183

E-mail:

Address: Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture, 1901 Fort Place SE, Washington, DC 20020

Web site: www.anacostia.si.edu

Antietam National Battlefield

The Civil War battle of Antietam stopped Confederate General Robert E. Lee's invasion into northern Union territory, forcing his army back to Virginia and leaving 23,000 killed, wounded or missing in one day. The fighting peaked on September 17, 1862, the bloodiest day in U.S. history. The Union victory gave President Lincoln the historic opportunity to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Visit the Battlefield and Visitors Center to learn more about this significant battle and how it fits into the bigger picture of the Civil War and U.S. history. Discover how terrain affected the strategy and fighting, how a battle of that magnitude affected the local environment, and how the lives of local residents changed as a result.

Topics: Ecology, streams, forests, history

Serving: Upper elementary through college

Standards: Curricula address Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia standards of learning.

Resources

- * Heritage education programs (upper elementary to adult), by reservation only
- * Curriculum materials and online information on the Battle of Antietam.
- * Preparation and follow-up activities
- * Teacher workshops each summer
- * Speakers
- * Films, demonstrations and interpretive talks
- * Summer youth programs
- * Community service learning
- * High school and college internships (unpaid)
- * Museum

Notes

- * Group reservations required for programs.
- * Most of the site is wheelchair-accessible.
- * Sign language interpretation available with advance notice.

Location and Getting There

Sharpsburg, MD, approximately 1½ hours from the Beltway

For More Information

Christie Stanczak, Education Coordinator

Phone: (301) 432-4567

Fax: (301) 432-4942

E-mail: christie_stanczak@nps.gov or anti_interpretation@nps.gov

Address: National Park Service, Box 158, Sharpsburg, MD 21782

Web site: www.nps.gov/anti

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park

The C&O Canal stretches 185 miles along the Potomac River, from Georgetown in DC to Cumberland in Western Maryland. The Park is a living classroom for learning about geography, economics, industrial history, geology, physics, ecology, mathematics, music, and about the lives of children along the canal during the 19th century. Encompassing nearly 20,000 acres, it preserves floodplain forest, wetlands and a rich array of geological, ecological and biological diversity, including many rare species. Its blend of natural and cultural history make it an ideal site for interdisciplinary education. Students can ride a mule-drawn barge through a lift lock and along the canal. Rangers offer boat rides, guided hikes, and demonstrations for groups.

The Park joins the Alice Ferguson Foundation in offering Bridging the Watershed programs at Georgetown and Great Falls, and hopes to offer it at Williamsport soon. In western Maryland, the Park offers the Partners Program, a collaborative effort to protect the Potomac Valley's rich natural and cultural resources and to use them as living classrooms for grades 4 through 8. Antietam, Monocacy, and Harpers Ferry national historical parks also participate in the Partners Program. BTW and Partners emphasize hands-on learning activities in science and social studies, and focus on preserving and protecting our local and global environment.

See also: Bridging the Watershed, page

Topics: Ecology, geology, freshwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests, biodiversity, history, anthropology

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: The Park's programs and curricula address national and state standards of learning.

Resources

- * Living history boat trips at Georgetown and Great Falls (fees)
- * Heritage and environmental education programs (all ages)
- * Curriculum materials, fact sheets and maps
- * Ranger-led demonstrations and guided hikes
- * Teacher workshops in Hancock, MD. (Seat or credit hours for BTW and Partners workshops)
- * Community service learning (credit)
- * High school and college internships (paid and unpaid)
- * Camping and boating facilities
- * Historic structures include a 19th-century one-room schoolhouse under renovation in Hancock and the Monocacy Aqueduct near Frederick.
- * Programs and boat trips available at Georgetown in DC, and at Great Falls, Williamsport, Sharpsburg, Hancock, and Cumberland in Maryland
- * Visitor center at Great Falls, MD

Notes

- * Group reservations required for programs and boat trips.
- * Sign language interpretation is available with two weeks notice. Some programs are fine for vision-impaired visitors.

Location and Getting There

Many points of access in Georgetown and western Montgomery County

Metro (Georgetown): bus 30, 32, 34 or 36 from Foggy Bottom (Blue and Orange lines); 10-minute walk from Foggy Bottom station

For More Information

Park Rangers

Phone: Georgetown (202) 653-5160; Great Falls (301) 299-3613

Fax: Georgetown (202) 653-5845; Great Falls (301) 413-2660

E-mail: kathy_kupper@nps.gov

Address: C&O Canal National Historical Park, 1057 Thomas Jefferson St. NW, Washington, DC 20007

Web site: www.nps.gov/choh

Clara Barton National Historic Site

American Red Cross founder Clara Barton used this site as a storage facility for supplies and donations, and later as her home and American Red Cross headquarters. The house is an ideal place to learn about Barton's remarkable life and work, and to study 19th-century U.S. and local history. Students learn how Clara Barton and the American Red Cross provided food, shelter, and water for victims of disasters such as the Johnstown Flood – without modern communications or transportation.

Topics: Civil War-era and 19th-century history

Serving:

Standards: Curriculum-based programs address national and Montgomery County standards of learning.

Also see: Parks as Classrooms, page

Resources

- * Curriculum-based programs for groups of eight to 30 students (K through 6).
- * Heritage education programs (all ages)
- * Guided tours
- * Online lessons and activities

Notes

- * Wheelchair access to first floor only.
- * The Site provides sign language interpretation and adapts programs for vision-impaired students with two weeks notice.
- * Group reservations required for programs and for groups of more than 10.

Location and Getting There

Off MacArthur Blvd. near Glen Echo Park

Metro: Ride-On route 29 from Bethesda or Friendship Heights (Red Line)

For More Information

Park Ranger

Phone: (301) 492-6245

Fax:

E-mail: gwmp_clara_barton_nhs@nps.gov

Address: Clara Barton National Historic Site, National Park Service, 5801 Oxford Road, Glen Echo, MD 20812

Web site: www.nps.gov/clba

Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run

Claude Moore Colonial Farm is a working 18th-century farm depicting the life of a poor family in Northern Virginia. The staff farms its 100 acres using Colonial-era techniques and reproductions of 18th-century tools and clothing. Visitors can step back in time at this living history museum and experience the 18th century, examining the connections between Colonial human activities and the environment.

Topics: Agriculture, history

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: The Farm's programs address national and Virginia standards of learning for history.

Resources

- * Heritage and environmental education programs (all ages)
- * Environmental Living Programs (ELP) three-day encampments teach students about history, environmental science, and agricultural practices and processes through the cultural laboratory of the 18th-century farm. Groups make their own period clothing, plan their own menus and projects, then spend three days and two nights living and working at the Environmental Living Center at Turkey Run.
- * ELP 18th-Century Skills Workshops examine three elements of Colonial life: Woodworking and Rough Carpentry Crafts; Cooking and Food Preservation; and Textiles.
- * Curriculum materials
- * Farm visits
- * Community service learning
- * High school and college internships (some paid)
- * Afterschool, weekend and summer youth programs

Notes

- * General entrance fee: adults \$3, children and seniors \$2; hands-on field trips \$3.50 per person. Please call for a fee schedule.
- * Group reservations required.
- * The Farm is wheelchair-accessible.

Location and Getting There

Near the junction of Route 123 and Route 193.

For More Information

Education Coordinator

Phone: (703) 442-7557

Fax: (703) 442-0714

E-mail: agates@1771.org

Address: 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101

Web site: www.1771.org

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site

Built around 1810, Colvin Run Mill has been restored to its earliest appearance, and once again grinds flour and cornmeal. Students can see how simple machines made the miller's work easier when they examine the wooden gears and other grinding machinery. They can also study the mill's use of hydropower and consider humans' dependence on the environment. The site also includes the Miller's House, a general store dating from around 1900, and a barn with hands-on interpretive exhibits and period tools.

Topics: History, technology

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Colvin Run Mill's programs address Virginia standards of learning in social studies and in force, motion and energy (simple machines).

Resources

- * Museum Education Program (grades 2 through 6) includes learning centers presenting the history of technology and folklife in the 19th century, and hands-on exhibits of simple machines.
- * Puppet Show for Preschoolers (ages 3 to5), part of a guided tour of the Mill.
- * Preparation and follow-up activity kits available on line.
- * Videos, slide shows, and PowerPoint materials
- * Exhibits and guided tours
- * Speakers
- * Teacher workshops
- * Summer youth programs
- * High school (unpaid) and college internships (possibly paid)
- * Grinding on Sundays, April through October, 12:00 to 2:00 pm. Flour and cornmeal for sale.

Notes

- * Wheelchair access to main floors of historic structures.
- * Braille brochure available.
- * Sign language interpretation available with one week notice: TDD (703) 324-3988.
- * Group reservations required. Fees for tours and school programs.
- * Registration for Fall programs begins in late August. Registration for Spring programs runs year-round. No programs in January and February.

Location and Getting There

Five miles west of Tysons Corner, just off Route 7, Leesburg Pike.
Near Great Falls, VA

For More Information

Assistant Site Administrator

Phone: (703) 759-2771

Fax: (703) 759-7490

E-mail: ann.korzeniewski@fairfaxcounty.gov

Address: 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, VA 22066

Web site: www.colvinrunmill.org

Department of the Interior Museum

The small museum at the Department of the Interior's headquarters depicts the agency's role as steward of most nationally owned public lands, and natural and cultural resources. Exhibits tell the story of [national parks, wildlife protection, geological research and more. They also highlight the Department's administration of Federal programs for Native American. Across the hall from the Interior Museum, the Indian Craft Shop features American Indian arts and crafts from more than 45 tribal areas.

Topics: Ecology, geology, biodiversity, history, art, anthropology, Native American art and culture
Serving: Grade 1 to college

Resources

- * Guided tours
- * Exhibits and videos
- * Undergraduate and graduate internships, some paid through the National Council for Preservation Education. Visit www.nce.org.

Notes

- * Photo ID required for adults.
- * Reservations required two weeks in advance for groups or guided tours, and to view 1930s-era murals.
- * The E Street entrance is wheelchair-accessible.
- * Please request sign language interpretation when reserving a group tour.

Location and Getting There

C Street NW, between 18th and 19th streets
Metro: Farragut West (Orange and Blue Lines)

For More Information

Museum Director

Phone: (202) 208-4743

Fax: (202) 208-1535

E-mail:

Address: Department of the Interior Museum, 1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20240

Web site: <http://museums.doi.gov>

Discovery Creek Children's Museum of Washington

Discovery Creek Children's is committed to helping all children experience, appreciate, and become stewards of the natural environment. The Museum provides a wide variety of environmental education programs for elementary students, teachers, and families. School programs cover topics ranging from metamorphosis to the rainforest; address the National Science Content Standards; and take place inside the museum and outside on trails.

The Museum operates at two locations: the Schoolhouse, the only remaining one-room schoolhouse in the District; and the Stable, in historic Glen Echo Park in Maryland. The Schoolhouse site is a 12-acre wilderness area featuring trails, rock outcroppings and a creek. The Stable features a hiking trail to Minnehaha Creek and a beautiful Children's Garden, complete with an underground tunnel, a pond, and a tree house.

Topics: Ecology, geology, freshwater and saltwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests, biodiversity, sustainability

Serving: Pre-K through grade 6

Standards: Museum lesson plans and school programs address National Science Content Standards,

Resources

- * Lesson plans and school programs, with preparation and follow-up activities.
- * Teacher workshops and professional development (seat hours; free or for reduced fees for Museum members)
- * Afterschool, weekend and summer youth programs include summer nature adventure camps and Scouts programs
- * Community service opportunities
- * High school and college internships (some paid)
- * Weekend family programs

Notes

- * Call for wheelchair access information.
- * Sign language interpretation available with two weeks notice.
- * Reservations required for weekday programs.

Location and Getting There

* Schoolhouse: 4954 MacArthur Blvd. NW between Ashby Terrace and Chain Bridge Road in DC

Metrobus: D6 from Farragut West (Blue and Orange lines) or Dupont Circle (Red Line)

* Stable: 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo, MD

Metro: Ride-On route 29 from Bethesda (Red Line)

For More Information

Education Assistant

Phone: (202) 337-5111

Fax: (202) 337-5433

E-mail: education@discoverycreek.org

Address: 2233 Wisconsin Ave. NW, #410, Washington, DC 20007

Web site: www.discoverycreek.org

Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site

Because the District of Columbia was vulnerable to Confederate attack when the Civil War began, Union troops built a network of forts around the city. With 36 cannon in five bastions, Fort Ward is one of the largest. Visitors can tour the restored fort and visit the nearby Museum and research library. This is an excellent location to study the Civil War with an emphasis on local history, and to consider how Washington's geography, topography, and environmental features influenced the defense of our nation's capital.

Topics: Civil war-era history

Serving: Grade 4 through college

Standards: Programs address national and Virginia standards of learning.

Resources

- * Guided tours
- * Educational materials include videos and slide shows (some available for school use), online information, computer-based lessons, fact sheets, maps and historic artifacts
- * Speakers, lectures and symposia
- * The Fort Ward Dispatch newsletter, published thrice yearly (free)
- * Summer youth camp
- * College internships (intermittent, unpaid)
- * Teacher workshops (may offer credit)

Notes

- * Wheelchair access is limited.
- * Group reservations required for programs and tours.
- * The Museum offers brochures in Spanish, French, German and Braille are available.
- * The Museum provides sign language interpretation and adapts programs for vision-impaired students with one week notice.

Location and Getting There

Metro: DASH route AT5 from King Street (Yellow Line)

For More Information

Education Specialist

Phone: (703) 838-4848

Fax: (703) 671-7350

E-mail: fort.ward@ci.alexandria.va.us/oha/fortward.html

Address: 4301 West Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22304

Web site: www.fortward.org

Fort Washington National Park

Fort Washington played an important role in defending the District and the Potomac River from 1809 until the end of World War II. Fort Washington is surrounded by forest and offers a spectacular view of the Potomac River and Mount Vernon. It is a great place to study the connection between military history and topography. The Park's forests, meadows and rock outcrops offer many opportunities to explore ecosystems and to study geology.

Topics: Ecology, geology, aquatic ecosystems, history

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: The Park's curriculum-based programs address DC, Maryland, Virginia and national standards of learning.

Resources

- * Heritage and environmental education programs (all ages)
- * Guided tours
- * Living History Programs
- * Bridging the Watershed curriculum-based programs (grades 9 through 12)
- * Community service learning

Notes

- * Entrance fees (may be waived for educational groups).
- * Group reservations required.
- * Most of the Park is wheelchair-accessible.
- * The Park provides sign language interpretation with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

Off Indian Head Hwy.. (Maryland Route 210), south of the District

For More Information

Park Ranger

Phone: (301) 763-4600

Fax: (301) 763-1389

E-mail: nace_fort_washington_park@nps.gov.

Address: National Park Service, 13551 Fort Washington Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

Web site: www.nps.gov/fowa

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

Born into slavery, Frederick Douglass became not only an influential orator, abolitionist and statesman, but an accomplished naturalist as well. He lived in this Victorian home from age 60 until his death. The mansion is ideal for studying 19th-century African-American history, the Civil War and Emancipation, and Anacostia's history. The house and estate, Cedar Hill, offer a spectacular view of the city and a good place to study the District's natural and social history.

Topics:

Serving: Grade 1 through college

Standards: Programs address national standards of learning.

Resources

- * Heritage education programs (all ages)
- * Fact sheets
- * Guided tours
- * Films and lectures on site
- * Junior Oratorical Contest
- * Visitors Center with a book shop specializing in African-American history
- * College internships (some paid)

Notes

- * The Visitors Center and the home's first floor are wheelchair-accessible.
- * Sign language interpretation is available, and staff will adapt programs for vision-impaired students, with two weeks notice.
- * Reservations required for groups of five or more. Please call (800) 967-2283.
- * Reservation fee of \$2.00 per person for groups of five or more.

Location and Getting There

Metro: bus B2, U2 or P2 from Anacostia (Green Line)

For More Information

Park Ranger

Phone: Voice and TDD (202) 426-5961

Fax: (202) 426-0880

E-mail: nace_frederick_douglass_nhs@nps.gov

Address: 1411 W St. SE, Washington, DC 20020

Web site: www.nps.gov/frdo

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park spans 2,300 acres in West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia by the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers. Offering a wealth of heritage and environmental education programs, it is a wonderful place to explore the connections between environment and culture, and to learn about the Civil War, the Abolitionist Movement and African-American history.

George Washington had the 2nd National Armory built at Harpers Ferry, and the later arrival of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad added greater economic advantage to the thriving community. In 1859, the town survived John Brown's raid on the armory, only to be torn apart by the Civil War.

The roots of the African-American experience run deep in Harpers Ferry. Slavery, the struggle for freedom, education, and early civil rights struggles are all important aspects of its history. Storer College, an African-American institution established after the Civil War, can complement your tour of Harpers Ferry.

Topics: Ecology, geology, wetlands, civil rights, history

Serving: Grade 2 through college

Standards: Curriculum-based programs address national standards of learning. The Park is working to align its programs with grade-specific standards for DC, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Please call for specific information.

See also: Bridging the Watershed, page; and Parks As Classrooms, page .

Resources

- * Heritage and environmental education programs (all ages)
- * Curriculum materials and publications
- * Teacher guides, and videos for sale, including the John Brown Raid video pack s
- * Speakers
- * Pre- and post-visit activities
- * Teacher workshops
- * Bridging the Watershed curriculum-based programs may be available beginning in 2004.
- * Teachers Institute through the Harpers Ferry Historical Association (CEUs and course credit). Please call the Association at (304) 535-6881.
- * Curriculum-based Partners Education Program (funded through Parks As Classrooms) offers several modules under each of several major topics: the Civil War; John Brown Raid and African-American Experience; Harpers Ferry; Natural Resources and Environmental Science; and Archeology and Industrial History. Other curriculum-based programs include the Marsh Walk, Black Voices from Harpers Ferry, and Virginius Island. (60 to 90 minutes; grade level varies by program)
- * Ranger-guided and self-guided tours, talks, living history demonstrations and re-enactments
- * Historic exhibits and sites
- * Junior Ranger Program
- * College internships (Stipends and housing sometimes provided.)

Notes

- * Call for wheelchair access information.
- * Group reservations required three weeks in advance.
- * Please request sign language interpretation or accommodations for vision-impaired students three weeks in advance.

Location and Getting There

Roughly 1½ hours north of the Beltway. Accessible by MARC and Amtrak trains.

For More Information

For More Information

Catherine Bragaw, Education Program Coordinator

Phone: (304) 535-6283

Fax: (304) 535-6244

E-mail: catherine_bragaw@nps.gov

Address: National Park Service, Box 65, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Web site: www.nps.gov/hafe

Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon offers students a great opportunity to experience history, to get to know the real George Washington, and to enjoy the same stunning view of the Potomac River that Washington did. By examining plantation life, students can explore interaction between humans and the environment, the connections between natural resources and an economic system, and the impact of an economic system on people and the environment. The estate features the mansion, 18th-century heirlooms, the greenhouse and gardens, slave quarters, a trail, a Pioneer Farm site, the George Washington Museum, the Archaeology and Restoration Museum, the Slave Memorial and Washington's tomb. Students see an 18th-century water-powered mill in operation and learn about its role in George Washington's vision for America's future as "granary to the world." By also visiting the National Colonial Farm or the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, students can compare owning-class plantation life with middle-class farm life of the same period.

Topics: Agriculture, horticulture, 18th-century history and economics, slavery and plantation life

Serving: K through college

Standards: Programs address national standards of learning. Mount Vernon is assessing program alignment with state standards. Also see: National Colonial Farm, page; and Claude Moore Colonial Farm, page

Resources

- * Colonial Days program (grades 1 through 6) during the first three weeks of November and the three weeks after Washington's birthday
- * Interactive hands-on history area (Memorial Day through Labor Day)
- * Pioneer Farm site, an interactive 18th-century farm (March through November)
- * Gristmill at Mount Vernon, an operational 18th-century water-powered gristmill
- * Seasonal educational programs include "Black History Month"; "Down on the Farm – An Interactive Tour"; "Washington in the Wilderness"; "Grist for the Mill"; and "Digging Through Time – Archaeology at Washington's Mill."
- * In-school programs include "Washington at Mount Vernon"; "Plantation Crafts"; and "Cultural Detectives."
- * Teacher packets to prepare students for visits
- * Community service learning through the Volunteer Office at (703) 799-8687.
- * Summer college internships with the George Washington Pioneer Farmer program (housing and stipend)
- * Summer Residential Teacher Institute lasts one week and offers credit. Portions may be open to local teachers free of charge.

Notes

- * Fees.
- * Wheelchair access limited to first floor of mansion.
- * Staff works to adapt programs for hearing-impaired and vision-impaired students with three weeks notice.
- * Reservations required for Colonial Days and other programs.

Location and Getting There

South end of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, eight miles south of Old Town Alexandria

Metro: Fairfax Connector route 101 from Huntington (Yellow Line)

For More Information

Education Department

Phone: (703) 799-8604

Fax: (703) 799-5212

E-mail: education@mountvernon.org

Address: Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Web site: www.mountvernon.org

Manassas National Battlefield Park

Manassas National Battlefield Park is an excellent place to study ecology, biodiversity, and the impacts of human activity. Nestled in over 5,000 acres of meadows, woodlands and streams, the Park has been described as one of the region's most unspoiled areas. It shelters a great diversity of species and rare and significant habitats, including Upland Depression Swamp, Oak-Hickory (both very threatened by development elsewhere in Virginia), Eastern White Pine and Piedmont Mountain Swamp forests.

Two significant Civil War battles were fought on fields overlooking Bull Run. The first, on July 21, 1861, was the first major engagement of the Civil War. Civilians and government officials took picnic baskets and followed the Union troops out of Washington a battle that they were certain would end the war. But the Confederate victory and the reality of battle shocked soldiers and spectators alike. Thirteen months later, the second battle resulted in tremendous casualties and another Union defeat. The Park's Visitor Center, Museum, wayside exhibits and monuments offer an opportunity to learn about these battles and their role in the Civil War, and to study 19th-century history. Students can examine the terrain and topography and analyze their effects on the battle, or consider the impact of war on the local environment and community.

Though none of the Park's current programs focus on the environment, its Web site offers abundant information on habitat and wildlife, and Park staff can create environmental presentations on request.

Topics: Civil War-era history, historic preservation, ecology, freshwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests and meadows, biodiversity, native plants and animals, transportation

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Programs and materials address national and Virginia standards of learning

Resources

- * Heritage education programs (Pre-K through 12)
- * Curriculum materials, and preparation and follow-up activities
- * Online information and fact sheets on habitat and biodiversity
- * Videos (free to schools)
- * Audio-visual presentation
- * Guided and self-guided tours, talks, demonstrations, and electric map
- * Pre- and post-visit activities
- * Teacher workshops currently address Civil War-era history and are available only to Prince William County Schools.

Notes

- * Group reservations required for programs and tours.
- * Program fees (may be waived for educational groups).
- * Wheelchair access is limited.
- * Sign language interpretation, and programs adapted for vision-impaired students, are available with 30 days notice.

Location and Getting There

On Route 234 near Interstate 66, exit 47B

For More Information

Education Coordinator

Phone: (703) 361-1339; TDD (703) 361-7075

Fax: (703) 361-7106

E-mail: mana_superintendent@nps.gov

Address: 6511 Sudley Road, Manassas, VA 22109

Web site: www.nps.gov/mana

National Air and Space Museum – Smithsonian Institution

The National Air and Space Museum examines the history, science and technology of aviation and space flight. It features three special presentation centers: the Albert Einstein Planetarium, Lockheed Martin IMAX® Theater, and “How Things Fly,” an interactive gallery exploring the physics of flight. A library for historical research on aeronautics and space is open by appointment. The Museum offers programs and curriculum material on aviation and space flight. It also houses the Center for Earth and Planetary Studies, a research facility that showcases some its findings (including great graphics and pictures!) on the Museum’s Web site.

Topics: Geology, planetology, cosmology, astronomy and astronavigation, weather, biodiversity, remote sensing, mapping, aviation, space flight

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: The Museum’s educational programs and resources address national standards of learning.

Resources

- * Science education programs in “How Things Fly” (all ages)
- * Teacher packets, guides and posters, some available on line
- * On-line lessons and activities include “Exploring the Planets CyberCenter,” an interactive site where students can simulate the research techniques used by scientists to study the Solar System .
- * Teacher workshops (some for credit or seat hours)
- * Lectures and symposia
- * Jobs for high school and college students; college summer internships (paid)
- * Tours and demonstrations
- * Planetarium shows and IMAX films
- * Research library, (202) 357-2700

Notes

- * Group reservations required for programs; forms available at www.nasm.edu.
- * The Museum is wheelchair-accessible.
- * The Museum provides sign language interpretation, and docents of vision-impaired students, with two weeks notice. Please call (202) 633-2549.

Location and Getting There

On the National Mall

Metro: L’Enfant Plaza (all lines except Red)

For More Information

Education Department

Phone: (202) 633-2541

Fax: (202) 633-8928

E-mail:

Address: 6th St. & Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20560

Web site: www.nasm.edu

National Aquarium

Housed at the U.S. Department of Commerce, the National Aquarium is the oldest aquarium in the United States. It features 70 tanks and more than 1,200 marine creatures, and visitors can pet sea creatures in a touch tank. The Aquarium hopes to expand its curricula to all grades. Its existing programs meet national science education standards, as outlined in the Benchmarks for Project 2061

Topics: Ecology, fresh and saltwater ecosystems, wetlands, biodiversity, water pollution, marine science
Serving: Pre-K through college

Resources

- * Museum tours and classroom programs
- * Fact sheets and curricula (grade 6 and up)
- * Teacher Guide for self-guided tours
- * Teacher workshops being developed
- * Preparation and follow-up activities
- * Daily presentations about sharks, piranhas and alligators; held at feeding time, 2:00 pm.
- * Fishlines on-line newsletter
- * After school, weekend and summer youth programs.
- * High school and college internships (unpaid)

Notes

- * Entrance fees charged, but no programs fees. Group discounts available.
- * Reservations required for tours and classroom programs; two-weeks advance for classroom programs.
- * The Museum is wheelchair-accessible.

Location and Getting There

Metro: Federal Triangle (Blue and Orange lines)

For More Information

Kathy Kowalchick, Education Coordinator

Phone: (202) 482-2826

Fax: (202) 482-4946

E-mail: info@nationalaquarium.com

Address: 14th St. & Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20230

Web site: www.nationalaquarium.com

National Aquarium in Baltimore

The National Aquarium in Baltimore brings the amazing animal diversity and ecology of our planet's aquatic habitats to life for students pre-K through graduate school. The Aquarium is a leader and ally in efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay. It serves as the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center for the bay region. The Aquarium strives to foster a sense of community responsibility and participation in the preservation and restoration of the Bay by providing educational and action opportunities.

Serving: Pre-K through college

Topics: Marine and freshwater ecosystems, biodiversity

Standards: Programs address Maryland and national standards.

Resources

- * Living in Water Curriculum award-winning curriculum (Grades 5 through 9)

- * Speakers and classroom programs (Pre-K through 8)

- * Teacher Overnight offers tours, presentations, teaching materials, and membership in the Mid-Atlantic Marine Educators Association.

- * Teacher workshops

- * Aquarium Conservation Team (ACT) provides volunteers to help restore habitats, learn about watershed dynamics, and develop the knowledge and skills to participate in or lead in environmental stewardship.

- * Summer Camps include Sea Explorations (ages 3 to 4); Aquarium Adventure (ages 5 to 7); Sharks Inside and Out (ages 8 to 10); and A Week on the Bay (ages 12 to 14)

- * College internships (unpaid, possible academic credit)

Notes

- * The Aquarium is wheelchair-accessible.

- * The Aquarium provides program services for hearing-impaired and vision-impaired students with three weeks notice. Visit www.aqua.org/specialneeds_resources.html.

- * Fees charged of non-school groups and for school groups from outside of Maryland. From September through February, admission is free for all Maryland school groups. Out-of-state visitors receive special group rates.

Admission is free for DC Public Schools on March 1 and 2, 2004.

For More Information

Joe Harber, Manager of Forma Education

Phone: (410) 576-3800

Fax: (410) 659-0116

Email: education@aqua.org

Address: Pier 3, 501 East Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21202

www.aqua.org

National Building Museum

The National Building Museum is the nation's only institution that comprehensively examines the what, who, how and why of building in America – from our homes, offices, and factories to our parks, roads, and cities. Youth programs at the National Building Museum inspire students to look closely at the people, processes and materials that create buildings and places. Participants learn to recognize and solve design problems, test civil engineering principles, weigh environmental and community-based issues, and "read" buildings. The built environment becomes the lab for developing skills in critical and creative thinking, problem-solving, analysis, evaluation, and teamwork. The Museum's Teacher Advisory Board helps design new school programs and upgrade existing programs and materials.

The Museum's school programs complement math, science, social studies, language arts, technology, art, and music curricula, with the goal of working with teachers to help students understand that they can have positive impacts on their environment through their decisions. At the end of each program, students return to their classrooms with projects that they have built such as adobe houses, suspension bridges, or geodesic domes.

The National Building Museum offers three unique outreach programs – CityVision; Investigating Where We Live; and the Design Apprentice Program – that offer under-served urban youth of middle school age in-depth opportunity to learn about the design process. These programs are offered on weekends, in the summer, and during the academic year.

Topics: Sustainability, land use, transportation, energy, environmental economics

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Museum programs address national, DC, Maryland, and Virginia standards of learning.

Resources

- * School, outreach, family, and scout programs at the Museum
- * Educator's Resource Packets provided with school programs (Pre-K through 9) include curriculum-based preparation and follow-up activities, resource lists, museum information, and a museum visit check list
- * Design immersion programs (middle school). See above.
- * Summer youth programs (ages 4 through 13) offer hands-on activities in which young people may design cities, construct domes, and create sculpture. Open to camps and recreation centers.
- * Weekend youth programs
- * Teacher workshops (seat hours)
- * College internships (unpaid)
- * Adult programs include lectures and tours of landmark buildings and construction sites.

Notes

- * Reservations required for all programs. Forms available on the Museum's web site.
- * The Museum is wheelchair-accessible via the G Street entrance. Wheelchairs available at the Information Desk.
- * The Museum provides sign language interpretation. Please request it when you register.
- * To ensure visitor safety, security guards now hand-check all bags, purses, etc..

Location and Getting There

Metro: Judiciary Square (Red Line)

For More Information

School Programs Coordinator

Phone: (202) 272-2448, x3307

Fax: (202) 376-3564

E-mail: school@nbm.org

Address: 401 F St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

Web site: www.nbm.org

National Colonial Farm and Ecosystem Farm

In cooperation with the National Park Service, the Accokeek Foundation operates the National Colonial Farm and the Ecosystem Farm in Piscataway Park, on the banks of the Potomac River in southern Prince George's County. The Farms and the Park are wonderful places to discover connections between humans and the environment, and to explore 18th-century folklife in rural Maryland. The Colonial Farm exemplifies a middle-class tobacco farm from 1775. Costumed interpreters, period buildings and farming implements, and demonstrations of colonial life depict the life of a typical family during the Colonial era. Attractions include a farmhouse, tobacco barn, outbuildings, and a variety of heritage breed animals and heirloom crops. The organic Ecosystem Farm demonstrates that people can produce sustainable vegetable harvests in an ecologically sound manner. The Foundation also maintains woodland trails, a Native Tree Arboretum, and other attractions highlighting the Park's innate beauty.

Topics: Ecology, freshwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests, sustainability and sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, habitat restoration, water quality, history

Serving: Grade 1 through college

Standards: Programs address national, Maryland, Virginia, and possibly standards of learning.

Resources

- * History and environmental education programs (all ages)
- * Speakers, lectures and symposia
- * Field trips
- * Preparatory and follow-up activities
- * Teacher workshops
- * Guided tours, nature trails and Blue Bird Trail Hike
- * After school, weekend and summer youth programs
- * Community service learning
- * High school and college internships (unpaid)
- * American Chestnut tree research site and Native Tree Arboretum
- * Special events include Winter's Eve, African-American Heritage Day, Children's Day, Colonial Day, Potomac River Cleanup, and the Presidents' Day Shoreline Walk.

Notes

- * Fees for school and group tours.
- * The Farms are wheelchair-accessible. Please call in advance for assistance on rugged trails if needed.
- * Reservations required for school and group tours.

Location and Getting There

Sixteen miles south of DC, off Indian Head Hwy. (Maryland Route 210S)

For More Information

Annamarie Buckley, Director of Education

Phone: (301) 283-2113 x 28

Fax: (301) 283-2049

E-mail: education@accokeek.org

Address: 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, Maryland 20607

Web site: www.accokeek.org

National Museum of American History – Smithsonian Institution

The National Museum of American History, Behring Center is dedicated to a broader understanding of our nation and its many peoples. The Museum's programs encourage students to use analytical skills and deductive reasoning to explore the everyday life, culture and technology of the nation's rural, urban and ethnic communities. Tours of the "Field to Factory" exhibit and programs in the Hands On History Room and the Hands On Science Center integrate the discussion of environmental issues with other aspects of social, cultural and technological history.

Topics: Freshwater ecosystems, agriculture, genetically modified organisms, solid waste, water pollution, climate change, ozone depletion

Serving: Grade 1 through college

Standards: Programs address national standards of learning in history and science.

Resources

- * School tours (K through 12)
- * Teacher manuals
- * Publications, including maps
- * Seminars and teacher workshops (credit)
- * Hands On Science Center (grades 3 through 12) and Hands On History Room (grades 4 through 12)
- * Online activities
- * Films and live performances
- * OurStory – History Through Children's Literature
- * College internships (unpaid)

Notes

- * Written reservations required at least four weeks in advance for group tours.
- * The Museum is wheelchair-accessible.
- * The Museum provides services for students with impaired hearing or vision with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

Constitution Ave. side of the National Mall

Metro: Smithsonian (Blue and Orange lines)

For More Information

Tour Coordinator

Phone: (202) 357-1481

Fax: (202) 357-3328

E-mail: nmahtours@si.edu

Address: National Museum of American History, Behring Center, Education and Public Programs Department, Room B1026
MRC 603, Washington, DC 20560

Web site: www.americanhistory.si.edu

National Museum of Natural History – Smithsonian Institution

The National Museum of Natural History is an excellent resource for teaching and learning natural history and anthropology. The Museum features a Discovery Room for younger children and families, the Insect Zoo, and FossilLab for visitors of all ages. Museum educators and trained docents provide programs suitable for school groups in the Museum and through electronic delivery nationally. The Museum's Naturalist Center in Leesburg, Virginia, offers professional development for teachers, special events, and school programs.

Topics: Africa, amphibians (fossil and modern), ancient cultures, anthropology, archeology, Asia and Pacific cultures, biodiversity, biology, bones, climate change, dinosaurs, ecosystems, evolution, forces of change, fossils, gems, geology, Ice Age, insects, life in ancient seas, mammals (fossil and modern), meteorites, minerals, Native Americans, osteology, paleontology, plants (fossil), plate tectonics, reptiles (fossil and modern), rocks, South America

Serving: Pre-K through college

Also see: Smithsonian Naturalist Center, page

Resources

- * Natural history, environmental, and heritage education programs (all ages)
- * Preparation and follow-up activities
- * Curriculum materials, pamphlets, worksheets and fact sheets
- * Discovery Room school program
- * Discover Stations offer carts with hands-on activities emphasizing learning through object-based inquiry.
- * Self-guided tours for school groups; docent-led highlights tours for adults
- * Teacher workshops and professional development (seat hours possible)
- * Educators E-Newsletter. To subscribe, please call (202) 357-1659. To receive announcements by regular mail, please call (202) 786-2178.
- * High school and college internships (unpaid)
- * Symposia and videoconferences
- * Friday lectures and films, 12:00pm.
- * Virtual field trips at www.nmnh.si.edu

Notes

- * Reservations required for Discovery Room school program.
- * Sign language interpretation, and service for vision-impaired visitors, are available with at least two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

Constitution Ave. at 10th St. or Madison Drive on the National Mall

Metro: Smithsonian (Blue and Orange lines)

For More Information

Phone: (202) 786-2178 or TTY (202) 633-9297

Fax: (202) 786-2778

E-mail: education@nmnh.si.edu

Address: Office of Education, NMN, Room CE 208, Smithsonian Institution, MRC 158, P.O. Box 37012, Washington, DC 20013-7012

Web site: www.nmnh.si.edu

Old Post Office Tower

Built in 1899 as the city's mail depot and the Postmaster General's headquarters, the Old Post Office exemplifies the value of adaptive reuse of old buildings. The National Park Service leads tours of the 315' bell tower housing the Congress Bells, a bicentennial gift to the United States from England. The tower offers students a wonderful 360° view of the city and an ideal place to study DC history, culture and development. It is also a good location for mapping activities and for learning principles of urban planning. The bells offer an opportunity to learn about sound, vibration and music.

Topics: Sustainability, land use, transportation, air quality, climate change, weather, history, urban planning, mapping, sound and music

Serving: All ages

Resources

- * Heritage and environmental education programs (grade 3)
- * Preparatory and follow-up activities
- * Speakers
- * Teacher workshops
- * After school and summer youth programs
- * Guided tours for all grades
- * High school internships

Notes

- * Sign language interpretation and activities for blind visitors available with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

12th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Metro: Federal Triangle (Blue and Orange lines)

For More Information

Education Coordinator

Phone: (202) 606-8691

Fax: (202) 208-4918

E-mail: michael_laws@nps.gov

Address: National Park Service, National Capital Parks-Central, 900 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, DC 0024-2000

Web site: www.nps.gov/opot

Old Stone House

Built in "George Town" around 1765, the Old Stone House house is one of the oldest buildings still standing in the District of Columbia. This Colonial house is an excellent place to explore the connections between humans and their environment while learning local history.

Topics:

Serving: All ages

Resources

- * Heritage education programs (all ages)
- * Demonstrations and Park Ranger-led tours

Notes

- * Wheelchair access to first floor only.
- * Reservations required two weeks in advance for group tours.

Location and Getting There

3051 M St. NW

Metro: buses 30-36 from Farragut West (Blue and Orange lines)

For More Information

Park Ranger

Phone: (202) 426-6851

Fax: (202) 426-6851

E-mail: rocr_old_stone_house@nps.gov

Address: National Park Service, Rock Creek Park, 3545 Williamsburg Lane NW, Washington, DC 20008-1207

Web site: www.nps.gov/rocr

Peirce Mill – Rock Creek National Park

The last of eight mills that operated in the Rock Creek Valley, Peirce Mill represents the rural society and economy of America in the 1820s. The Mill illustrates the transition to power-driven machinery from centuries-old methods that relied on sheer muscle power. Isaac Peirce bought the Mill in 1794 along with 150 acres in the Rock Creek area. In 1820, he and his son rebuilt the Mill using blue granite quarried in the nearby Broad Branch area. Administered by the National Park Service, Peirce Mill is a great location to study the connections between humans and our environment, local 19th-century history, mechanization, hydropower and more.

Topics: Anthropology, agriculture, energy and technology, freshwater ecology, geology, history, land use
Serving: K through college
Standards: Curriculum-based programs address DC, Maryland, Virginia and national standards of learning.
See also: Rock Creek National Park

Resources

- * Heritage and environmental education curriculum-based programs (grades 3 through 12)
- * Tours and demonstrations
- * Videos, Power Point presentations, fact sheets, maps, and student worksheets
- * Preparation and follow-up activities
- * Weekend programs
- * Community service learning
- * Sign language interpretation is available with four weeks notice.

Notes

- * Wheelchair access to first floor only
- * Group reservations required

Location and Getting There

Rock Creek Park near Tilden St. and Beach Drive

For More Information

Park Ranger

Phone: (202) 895-6070

Fax: (202) 895-6230

E-mail: rocr_pierce_mill@nps.gov

Address: Rock Creek National Park, 3545 Williamsburg Lane NW, Washington, DC 0008-1207

Web site: www.nps.gov/rocr

Smithsonian Institution Naturalist Center

Part of the National Museum of Natural History, the Naturalist Center is designed for students, collectors, teachers, artists and others seriously interested in natural history. Visitors can examine collections, use a wide range of scientific equipment, and browse through books and references. Over 36,000 natural history specimens are available for close-up, hands-on study. The collection emphasizes local natural history and anthropology, but some sections are global in scope. Study rocks, fossils, plants, mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians, mollusks, corals, insects, other invertebrates, and Native American artifacts. The Center's reference library includes more than 6,500 volumes, and scientific equipment such as microscopes and measuring tools. Topics: Ecology, geology, zoology, botany, freshwater and saltwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests and other terrestrial habitat, biodiversity, forensics, paleoecology

Serving: Grade 5 through college

Standards: The Center's programs and curricula address national standards of learning. Its staff can adapt existing resources or work with teachers to create new resources to address standards in biology, earth science, math, language arts, fine arts, social studies, and other disciplines.

Resources

- * Educational programs for groups of up to 50 (grade 5 through college) emphasize problem solving, and cover researching and identifying mystery objects; learning about animal adaptations, biodiversity, and classification; rocks and minerals; and other topics. Contact the Center for a full programs list.

- * Curriculum materials

- * Lectures

- * Teacher workshops and professional development opportunities to enrich skills in inquiry-based instruction and in using museum objects are provided on request and adapted to the needs of each requesting group. (recertification credit)

- * Iwonder teacher training program is year-long, graduate-level education course through George Mason University. It starts with an intensive, one week summer program, followed by biweekly sessions during the school year.

- * Community service learning

- * High school and college internships (unpaid)

Notes

- * The Center is wheelchair-accessible. Its hands-on format is well-suited for vision-impaired visitors. Sign language interpretation is available with one month's notice. Naturalist Center staff and volunteers are available for special assistance and direction.

- * Visitors must be 10 years of age or older to visit the Center's main study gallery. A Family Learning Center is available for younger visitors.

- * Reservations required for groups of six or more.

- * Teachers with specific curriculum needs can contact the Center's staff, who will try to accommodate special requests.

Location and Getting There

Two miles from the end of the Dulles Greenway Tollroad (Rte. 267) in Leesburg, VA, and less than one hour from Washington, DC.

For More Information

Richard Eftim, Program Director

Phone: (800) 729-7725

Fax: (703) 779-9715

E-mail: natcenter@nmnh.si.edu

Address: Naturalist Center, Smithsonian Institution, 741 Miller Drive SE, Suite G-2, Leesburg, Virginia 20175-8994

Web site: www.mnh.si.edu/museum/virtualtour/tour/ground/natcenter

Woodlawn Mansion and the Pope-Leighey House

Woodlawn Mansion offers a good place to study early 19th-century plantation life. William Thorton, architect of the U.S. Capitol, designed the Woodlawn Mansion for Nelly Custis, Martha Washington's granddaughter, and her husband Lawrence Lewis, George Washington's nephew. Over 90 slaves lived and worked at Woodlawn. The grounds also include the 1940s Pope-Leighey House, a Usonian home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The site has formal gardens and a system of interpretive nature trails. Combine a trip to Woodlawn Plantation with a tour of George Washington's home at Mount Vernon.

Topics: Nineteenth-century and mid-twentieth-century social history, slavery and plantation life, architecture, agriculture, sustainability, land use

Serving: K through college

Standards: Programs and materials address national, Virginia, Maryland and DC standards of learning.

Also see: Mount Vernon, page

Resources

- * Heritage education programs (all ages)
- * Curriculum materials and curriculum-based programs (K through 12)
- * Guided tours, with pre- and post-visit activities
- * Internships; generally for college students, possibly for high school students (unpaid)

Notes

- * Fees.
- * Wheelchair access is limited.
- * Reservations required for group programs and tours.

Location and Getting There

9000 Richmond Highway (Route 1) near Route 235 in Alexandria

For More Information

Rhonda Goodman, Educator

Phone: (703) 780-4000 x 35

Fax: (703) 780-8509

E-mail: rhonda_goodman@nthp.org

Address: P.O. Box 37, Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Web site: www.nthp.org