

2023 Middle School Summer Workshops at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site and Gateway Arch National Park

Duration: Weeklong workshop (Monday – Friday) 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

When: June -August, 2023

Location: Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site or Gateway Arch
(students will have one day to visit the other park as well)

Audience: Middle School Youth from African American communities (approx. 15 youth per workshop) Ideally, from youth organizations or schools that could gather in centralized locations for bus pick-up.

Number of workshops: at least one workshop at each park, but more if requested by organizations

What is included:

- Bus transportation provided by parks to and from central location
- Cost of additional programming (i.e. Arch tram/riverboat cruise)
- Lunch each day

Purpose: To have students learn under-told stories about African Americans in St. Louis and Missouri, and work as teams to creatively share those stories with others. These stories include stories of slavery, resistance, and Reconstruction.

Format: The students will be learning at each park, by discovery instead of direct instruction, but with guidance and careful planning by park staff. The students will select a person or story of interest to further research and will base their creative project on this subject. At the conclusion of the workshop, they will present the stories they uncovered in whatever format they choose.

Options for sharing stories include video, graphics, PowerPoint, posters, skits, poems/songs, or website page. Students will be provided electronic tablets to use on-site during the workshop for research and project creation.

Staff: Park staff will be leading the workshops at both sites. The parks' cooperating association, Jefferson National Parks Association (JNPA) will cover the of student lunches.

Expectations from Youth Organization/School:

- Recruiting approximately 15 middle school students for week-long workshop
- Arranging central location/s for students to gather to be picked up in morning and be returned in afternoon by bus
- Assisting with required parental/guardian permission paperwork

Agenda:

- Day One – Overview of workshop purpose and Introduction to park that will not be the student “home park” for the week.
 - At Arch, tour museum exhibits with ranger, take guided riverboat cruise and learn about African American life on riverfront, freedom crossings, etc.
 - At U.S. Grant, watch film, tour White Haven, museum activities, view “Slavery in St. Louis” exhibit, and trip to Father Dickson Cemetery.
- Day Two – Introduction to “home park” and its stories. Start selecting people/stories of interest and examine research materials/resources available to them.
- Day Three – Park staff work with students as they identify stories/people for their projects. Students will divide into small groups and start research.
- Day Four – Project Work
- Day Five – Finish projects in morning. Share projects with park staff (and family) in afternoon.