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Learning by Doing: Building Youth Voices into Local Preservation Efforts

Youth Summits Inspire New Leaders in Historic Preservation

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National Park Service*

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Summary

- *Preservation organizations around the nation are hosting **Youth Summits** that engage and inspire students to become the next leaders in historic preservation.*
- *Join with partners to host Youth Summits in your community.*
- *Learn all about Youth Summits and find out how to plan yours at the National Park Service Youth Summits website:*

www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/youthsummits/introduction.html

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Youth Summits

- Provide exciting, on-site, interactive learning experiences for students and professionals
- Encourage students to participate in historic preservation, conservation, and heritage tourism issues and activities
- Help students develop the interest and skills to become stewards of community history and historic places
- Help young people grow into citizens who will help shape policy at the local, state, and national levels

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(Photo by Beth Boland)

Students present at the Connecting Cultures Youth Summit in WA state

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(Photo by Beth Boland)

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Teaching with Historic Places

- *NPS Teaching with Historic Places* hosts a website for resources and information about Youth Summits in historic preservation



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Youth Summits

- [TwHP Home](#)
- [Youth Summits Home](#)
- [Youth Summits How-To](#)
- [Youth Summits in Action](#)
- [Youth Summits Reports](#)
- [Teaching Teachers the Power of Place](#)
- [Service Learning](#)
- [National Register](#)
- [Travel Itineraries](#)

Teaching with Historic Places

YOUTH SUMMITS

An Introduction to Youth Summits and Why YOU Should Do It!

Youth Summits provide exciting, on-site, interactive learning experiences for students and professionals. These experiences both encourage students to participate in historic preservation, conservation, and heritage tourism issues and also empower them to share their ideas with leaders in these fields. Youth Summits help students develop the interest and skills to become stewards of community history and historic places and also to grow into citizens who will help shape policy at the local, state, and national levels. Professional organizations, community leaders, educators, students, and others contribute to make Youth Summits memorable and motivational experiences for all involved.

This website offers a step-by-step [How-To Guide](#) for people and institutions interested in organizing their own Youth Summits, [resources for planning summits](#), [sample agendas](#), and other information.

(NPS Youth Summits website)

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Online How-To Guide

Preparing the Next Generation

Managing and Presenting a Youth Summit



Youth Summit participants at the Lincoln Memorial
Photo by Beth Bowen

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(NPS Youth Summits website)

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YOUTH SUMMITS

-EXAMPLES-

Examples of Youth Summits

- [Youth Summit agenda from the Parker County, Colorado, Youth Summit](#)
- [Welcome packet for a Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit; Southern Rockies Crossroads of Culture Youth Summit](#) (opens as a pdf)
- [Advertisement for a Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit; Expanding Connections; Southwest Ancestral Landscapes in Mesa Verde Country](#) (opens as a pdf)
- [Summary and objectives for a Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit; Preservation 911; January 2014, on preservation during a large-scale emergency](#) (opens as a pdf)
- [Welcome packet for a Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit; Preservation 911; January 2014](#) (opens as a pdf)
- [Discover Washington Youth Heritage Project](#) (website)
- [Welcome packet for a Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit; Connecting Cultures; Washington State Youth Summit](#) (opens as a pdf)
- [Welcome packet for an Indiana Preservation Youth Summit; Southern Indiana's Underground Railroad Stories; October 2013](#) (opens as a pdf)



Students meet with teachers of national education organizations.
Photo by Beth Boland

(NPS Youth Summits website)

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(Photo by Beth Boland)

Students at the Connecting Cultures Youth Summit in WA state

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Expanding Connections: Southwest Ancestral Landscapes in Mesa Verde Country

The Colorado Preserve America Youth Summits provide engaging on-site interactive learning experiences for students, teachers and service leaders by involving them in study of local history, historic preservation, cultural conservation and heritage tourism issues that fosters leadership and motivates community efforts. Participants selected through a competitive application process are offered community service hours and full scholarships for all program costs, including meals, transportation and lodging.

(Colorado Youth Summit example)

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Expanding Connections: Southwest Ancestral Landscapes in Mesa Verde Country will bring Colorado middle and high school students to Mesa Verde Country to visit archaeological sites and evaluate the challenges of preserving and protecting public lands of international importance. During the Summit participants will:

- Explore internationally **famous archaeological sites**
- Learn about the **Ancestral people** and their culture
- Investigate **interpretative approaches** for National Parks and historic places
- Walk prehistoric villages at **Hovenweep National Monument**
- Evaluate the **visitor experience** at Chimney Rock National Monument
- Consider **balancing land use** at Canyons of the Ancients National Monument
- Study new programs and facilities at **Mesa Verde National Park, A World Heritage Site**
- Undertake learning activities at **Crow Canyon Archaeological Center**
- Meet with **volunteer organizations** working to save and share sites
- Contribute to an **ambitious service project** at Old Fort Lewis
- Understand **scientific advancements in archaeology**
- Consider **future strategies** to better share and save historic and cultural places
- Experience the **remarkable landscape** of the southwest
- Gain knowledge and **leadership experience**
- Report out new ideas at a **Town Hall with leaders and officials**
- **Have fun!**

SPACE IS LIMITED! Application Deadline: April 25, 2014
APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [HTTP://:COLORADOYOUTHSUMMIT.VIRB.COM](http://coloradoyouthsummit.virb.com)
 For more information contact Ann Pritzlaff at preserveamericayouthsummit@gmail.com



The Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit is funded in part by The State Historical Fund, a Program of History Colorado

(Colorado Youth Summit example)

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INDIANA PRESERVATION YOUTH SUMMIT



Southern Indiana's Underground
Railroad Stories
October 4-6, 2013
New Albany, Jeffersonville &
Madison, Indiana



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Study Themes & Questions

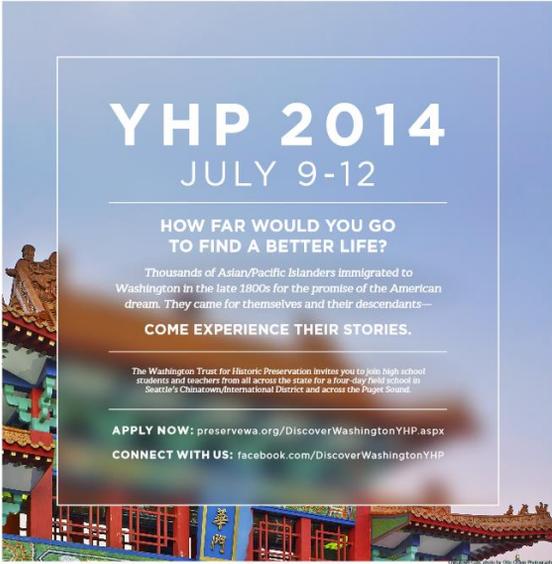


PRESERVING A STORY THAT'S MISSING FROM THE LANDSCAPE: HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW

MAIN QUESTIONS

1. If the buildings and evidence of important events in our past disappear, how should we help tell their story to others?
2. What challenges do you see in preserving historic buildings, landscapes, artifacts and stories associated with the Underground Railroad?
3. How can you get more youth involved in preserving and interpreting historic sites?
4. Why is saving and sharing stories and historic places important to our future as a country?

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YHP 2014

JULY 9-12

HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO FIND A BETTER LIFE?

Thousands of Asian/Pacific Islanders immigrated to Washington in the late 1800s for the promise of the American dream. They came for themselves and their descendants—

COME EXPERIENCE THEIR STORIES.

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation invites you to join high school students and teachers from all across the state for a four-day field school in Seattle's Chinatown/International District and across the Puget Sound.

APPLY NOW: preservewa.org/DiscoverWashingtonYHP.aspx

CONNECT WITH US: [facebook.com/DiscoverWashingtonYHP](https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverWashingtonYHP)

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Heritage Education Services

The Heritage Education Services Program is responsible for:

- Carrying out a program to enable the NPS to be fully engaged in using cultural resources and historic preservation programs to educate people of all ages, promoting public knowledge and support for cultural resources in parks and communities nationwide and the role the NPS plays in their identification, preservation, and interpretation.
- Administering the *Teaching with Historic Places* program with its series of on-line lesson plan series and the *Discover Our Shared Heritage* travel itineraries.
- Working with NPS cultural resources programs and other organizations and partners inside and outside of the NPS to develop, better coordinate, and extend the reach of education, training, and public awareness activities relating to cultural resources and the programs of the National Park Service.

Contacts:
Carol Shull, Chief, Heritage Education Services, (202) 354-2234



Lesson Plans



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Thank You



Visit the Youth Summits Website at NPS.gov
www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/youthsummits/Introduction.html