



Gateway Gazette

Could *your* students learn in a place like this?

We know they can.

National Park Service (NPS) Ranger, Jennifer King, welcomes a group of wide-eyed third-graders to her “classroom at the top of the Arch.”

I bring anything that I can to a program that (students) can't get by sitting in a classroom or at a computer.

NPS Ranger, Jennifer King

After giving students their instructions, Ranger King helps them list what they see from the windows into categories. Later in their classroom, students will use their list to complete a Venn Diagram comparing St. Louis in the past with St. Louis in the present.

NPS Rangers at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (JEFF) understand that students visiting the Gateway Arch and Old Courthouse get hands-on experiences not available in their classrooms. In working with this group of third-graders, Ranger King uses museum exhibits, living history items, and the Gateway Arch itself to help students learn about their community



National Park Service Rangers, Nancy Hoppe and Doug Harding, don historic duds to portray 1904 World's Fair photographers Jessie Tarbox Beals and her husband, Alfred, during the June Teacher Workshop. First person interpretation is one of many ways NPS Rangers bring history to life for classes visiting Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (JEFF).

in the past and present.

“I bring anything that I can to the program that they can't get by sitting in a classroom or at a computer,” says King. “I consider the rangers themselves to be part of the experience.”

Rangers at JEFF bring years of training and experience to developing and presenting Museum Education Programs. While programs are developed to meet the necessary curriculum standards, NPS Rangers look for ways to bring the stories to life for students.

Ranger Doug Harding,

dressed as a school teacher from the 1850s, leads a group of stealthy students up the stairs of the Old Courthouse to a chilly, dimly-lit room. By the dim glow

Could you learn in a place like this?

NPS Ranger, Doug Harding

of a single light, students take turns reading from a *McGuffey's Reader*.

“Could you learn in a place like this?” he asks.

Your students could.



Education Notes

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Gateway Gazette*, newsletter for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (JEFF) Education Department. *Gateway Gazette* is an exchange of articles and ideas about educational programs and resources at the Gateway Arch, Old Courthouse, and Gateway Arch Riverboats.

In 2001, the National Park System Advisory Board recommended that National Park Service (NPS) sites strengthen their role in the education community. JEFF's commitment to carrying out this challenge is reflected in resource-based experiences that meet local, state, and national curriculum standards. Experienced teachers and educators review our Museum Education Programs, Teacher Activity Guides, Traveling Trunks, and Scout Programs to help maintain relevance in a changing world.

Our commitment is also reflected by a dedicated and professional staff of NPS Interpretive Rangers. Our rangers continually look for ways to make history fun and interactive, bringing to life the stories of the past for students and teachers.

Can students learn in a place like this? We know they can. With more than twenty-five years of experience in educational programming, JEFF continues to "[e]mbrace its mission, as educator to become a more significant part of America's educational system."

Sincerely,
JEFF Education Department
www.nps.gov/jeff

The Education Department at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial

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Education programs and resources at JEFF are supported by Jefferson National Parks Association (JNPA), a federally recognized NPS cooperating association. Through the sales of educational products, JNPA helps to conserve, develop, and interpret areas of historical significance for the benefit of the public and posterity. As a tax-exempt, non-profit organization identified under section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code, all JNPA proceeds fund its educational mission.

Teachers respond to MEPs

Teachers participating in JEFF Museum Education Programs (MEPs) are asked to complete Program Evaluations. Program Evaluations give teachers a chance to respond to their experience and help us to evaluate program quality. Here are some comments from teachers attending programs during the 2003-2004 school year:

S., our Ranger guide, was the best in 7 years. I have brought German students to reenact this [Dred Scott] trial. He spoke slowly, didn't use 50¢ words, and asked students questions to gauge understanding I was very impressed!

Ranger R. was absolutely fabulous with my children. He was patient and answered each of their questions with respect. He is a tremendous asset to your program.

My girls had a great time at the Arch. They were very interested in what our ranger had to tell them. She did a great job keeping them involved with the program.

Thank you! This was an outstanding field trip. The rangers interacted beautifully with the students. The students were very interested in what the Rangers had to say. The students loved the trip and learned a lot. Thanks again!

I find our country's and state's history very interesting. The Arch gives us a sense of pride.

K. was excellent. He held the attention of 8 2nd grade boys for the full 45 minutes. I think they were actually sorry the program was not longer. Thank you.

This was a valuable learning experience for my students. We are lucky to have this resource so close. Thank you for being energetic in presenting the material. We had a great day!

M. did a nice job with our group of first graders! It was a great experience for all of us—not just the first graders. I've been coming for years and I learned some new things. Great job of moving us to different areas and not leaving us sitting too long! Super experience for us, M!

A great learning experience for all ages! G. was awesome! Really enjoyed him!

The gentlemen who was our leader was excellent. He kept my active 2nd grade children active and involved.



Ed Director appointed to NPS Education Council

JEFF Director of Education, Elisa Kunz, was selected in January, 2004, to serve on the NPS Education Council. The Council serves as an advisory board for the NPS in fulfilling its education mission. Its goal is to help broaden the relevance of NPS education programs to meet the demands of a changing world.

As a member of the Education Council, Kunz will help NPS sites to develop strategies and encourage partnerships in their local communities.

"I will be able to help other NPS sites to build their potential for reaching students," she said. Kunz was nominated for the position, in part, because of her and her staff's work in

developing educational programs for JEFF's Gateway Arch Riverboat sites. The program was awarded the 2003 Department of the Interior Environmental Achievement Award. As part of developing the programs, Kunz and her staff collaborated with agencies and partners outside of JEFF.

In keeping abreast of developments in the field of education, Kunz credits the feedback from teachers and educators participating in JEFF programs.

"I think the greatest asset we have are the teachers who use our resources," she said. "They provide me with so much information to ponder and use for different purposes."



The park as classroom: One teacher's story

Interview with Linda Delaney, teacher

Linda Delaney teaches fifth-grade Social Studies at Jamestown Elementary School in Florissant, Missouri. A veteran teacher, she has used JEFF programs and resources for thirty of her thirty-eight years teaching. Delaney took a few minutes to talk with us about the programs she uses at JEFF and how they help her students.

What programs and resources do you use at JEFF?

"All of them. The cowboy and the miner trunks are particularly useful because [students] haven't had the experiences of those trunks. Not many people have gold pans and spurs. The immigrant trunk was good because of how it related to the St. Louis Italian, German, and Irish populations. We talk about the Kerry Patch, the Hill, and South St. Louis Dutch neighborhoods. We talk about how these neighborhoods were often segregated and where the African-American children would have lived. This is important because many of the children of those children remain in St. Louis."

From a teacher's perspective, what is the value of programs and resources at a site like JEFF?

"One of the things that I like is that I can tell the children what is important, but when they

come down and see someone dressed in period costume and telling the story, it reinforces what I've been teaching. It helps to spark an interest in them. If they can see that tipi or how wide the horns on the steer are, then they are able to see things more clearly. It also helps us to polish up our manners, too; to kind of show off.



Also, I did not know what the Exodusters were, and it wasn't in our curriculum. But now it is, and I already know it because I had seen it there [at the Museum of Westward Expansion]."

You have attended teacher workshops at JEFF. What is the value of these?

"One of the most exciting things is the camaraderie of meeting other teachers. I'm meeting other professionals and exchanging ideas. One time I was eating lunch, and one of the teachers was talking about what they do at their school. I thought, 'Hey, I'm going to try that.' It's an exchange of ideas between teachers."

Any other comments about programs and resources at JEFF?

"The rangers have always been very courteous and helpful. Their friendliness makes it personal. They remember us and try to make it convenient for us."



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial commemorates the people, places, and events involved in the America's Westward Expansion during the nineteenth century. The Gateway Arch and Old Courthouse symbolize St. Louis' role as "Gateway to the West" during the 1800s.

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Website
www.nps.gov/jeff

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

Programs and Events at JEFF

For more information about programs and events at JEFF, call (314) 655-1600.

June 11

Flag Raising Ceremony (Old Courthouse)

Discovery Saturday Series: Lewis & Clark

June 12 Rivers Run Through It

July 10 Horses, Boats, and Bravery

August 14 Tools of the Trade

September 11 This Land is Your Land

June 14

- Shore to Sea: Cadet Scouts (reservations)
- Flag Day Naturalization Ceremony

June 15

Museum Discovery: Cadet Scouts (reservations)

June 16

Spring 2004 Teacher Workshop: Images of the Fair

July 2

Independence Day Naturalization Ceremony

July 2-4

Fair St. Louis

July 3 & 4

"A Patriotic Fourth of July Celebration"

September 17

Constitution Day Naturalization Ceremony

September 18

Children's Constitution Day: Celebrating Our Constitution (Homeschool Day)

October 6

Fall 2004 Teacher Workshop: Citizenship in the 1800s