


RIVERS OF STEEL

REGIONAL
FOLKLIFE
CENTER 



FACILITATING
CULTURAL CONTINUITY

PROMOTING
INTER-CULTURAL
AWARENESS AND RESPECT

ENCOURAGING
APPRECIATION OF
CULTURAL HERITAGE

RIVERS OF STEEL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
SERVING SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

FOLKLIFE

TRADITIONAL ARTS, CUSTOMS, AND SKILLS OF
ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS, OCCUPATIONAL, AND OTHER
CULTURAL COMMUNITIES.

TRADITION BEARERS

KEEPERS, PRACTITIONERS AND TRANSMITTERS
OF A COMMUNITY'S HERITAGE.





SERVICES

The Regional Folklife Center supports tradition bearers and organizations in strengthening their cultural heritage and in sharing their knowledge and skills.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTING

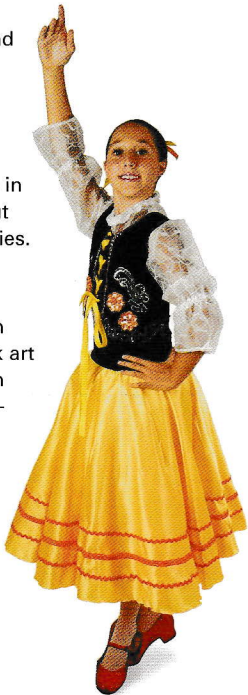
- **HELP** to organizations and schools in planning and presenting folklife programs and heritage tours
- **GUIDANCE** to tradition bearers in obtaining resources and forming partnerships
- **ADVICE** to communities on issues involving cultural heritage
- **REFERRALS** to tradition bearers and folk-cultural organizations

GRANT WORKSHOPS

Free workshops that inform tradition bearers, organizations, and participants in community-based folklife projects about grants and individual award opportunities.

FOLKLIFE DIRECTORY

Search online at www.riversofsteel.com by tradition bearer, organization, or folk art form. Read profiles of featured tradition bearers and organizations. Contact people for performances, demonstrations, lectures, or residencies.



ARCHIVE AND RESOURCE LIBRARY

Materials on the folk culture and industrial heritage of the Rivers of Steel region, including audio and video tapes and digital media; slides, photographs, and digital images; interview transcripts, site surveys, and field reports; resource books; and artifacts donated by area residents.

PROGRAMS

BOST GALLERY EXHIBITS

The Bost Building's third-floor gallery offers changing exhibits on the region's cultural and industrial heritage.

FOLKARTSHARE

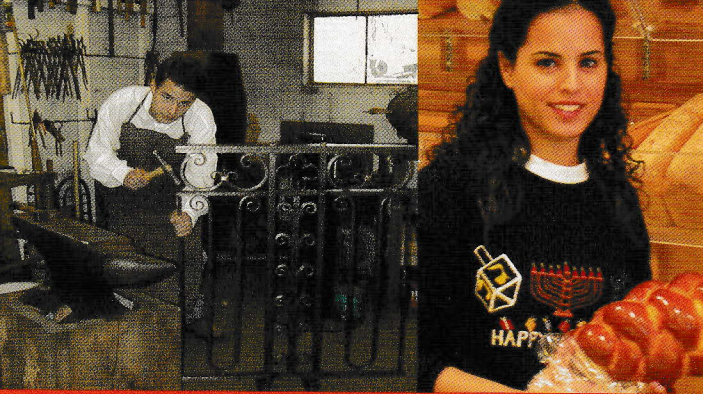
An annual one-day professional development workshop on issues of importance to tradition bearers and folk cultural organizations in the region.

PUBLICATIONS

The Regional Folklife Center works with communities and organizations in creating print, audio-visual, and online programs and publications that showcase living traditions of the Rivers of Steel region.

CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

A newsletter that profiles master tradition bearers and folk cultural organizations in the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area. It reports on the region's cultural heritage concerns and activities, presents a calendar of area events featuring living traditions, and announces grant opportunities.



ROUTES TO ROOTS

A print and online driving guide to cultural and industrial heritage sites and events in the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area. Filled with color photos, maps and itineraries, community histories, and profiles of the region's cultural traditions. Purchase at www.riversofsteel.com.

TRADITION BEARERS

Half-hour radio programs that highlight folklife traditions and cultural communities in the Rivers of Steel region. Program excerpts and playlists online at www.riversofsteel.com.

SHAPED BY STEEL

Meet the region's ethnic communities through their traditional arts, foods, customs, music and stories. Find *Shaped by Steel* products at www.riversofsteel.com.

EDUCATION

TRADITION BEARER REFERRALS

Develop classroom programs on cultural and industrial heritage using the online Rivers of Steel Regional Folklife Directory.

TRAVELING TRUNKS

Expose elementary and middle school youth to a multi-faceted look at our region's industrial and cultural heritage. Through observation-based discussions, creative personalized projects, and hands-on contact, students are invited to explore steel making, life on a river barge, and other exciting subjects. The use of recorded sound, tactile experiences, and visual imagery offers something for every type of learner.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

Visit the Rivers of Steel reference library at the Bost Building or go online at www.riversofsteel.com for materials to use in teaching about southwestern Pennsylvania's steel heritage.

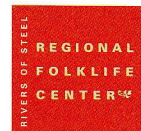
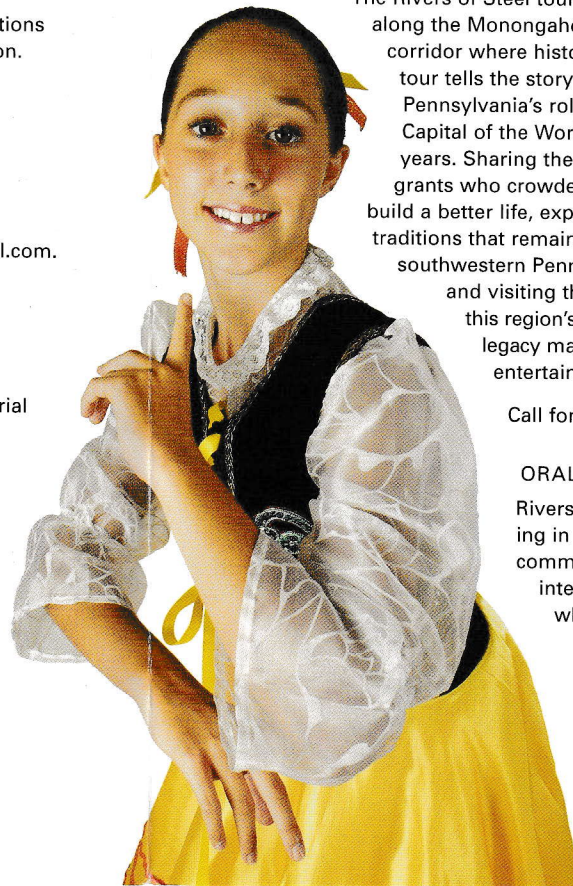
INTERPRETIVE TOURS

The Rivers of Steel tour takes visitors to sites along the Monongahela River's industrial corridor where history was made. The tour tells the story of southwestern Pennsylvania's role as the Steel Making Capital of the World for more than 100 years. Sharing the stories of the immigrants who crowded into the region to build a better life, experiencing cultural traditions that remain a unique part of southwestern Pennsylvania's heritage, and visiting the sites that chronicle this region's amazing industrial legacy make this two-hour tour entertaining and informative.

Call for more information.

ORAL HISTORY

Rivers of Steel offers training in how to document community heritage by interviewing the people who live it.





The Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area identifies, conserves, interprets, promotes, and manages the historic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources of steel and its related industries in southwestern Pennsylvania. Coordinated by the non-profit Steel Industry Heritage Corporation, its mission is to use these resources to encourage community revitalization through cultural tourism and related economic development.

The Regional Folklife Center is a project of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area in cooperation with the Institute for Cultural Partnerships, with support from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Park Service.



Rivers of Steel
National Heritage Area
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Hours: Monday-Friday
9:00 am – 5:00 pm, or by appointment.