ETHS Summer Teacher Workshop Series

“Core” Conversations:
Building Museum and School Partnerships

Don’t miss the East Tennessee Historical Society’s (ETHS) summer workshop series “Core” Conversations: Building Museum and School Partnerships! Four-day-long workshops in June will focus on regional museums and schools which work together to create engaging and curriculum-correlated language arts (ELA) and social studies programs. In today’s Common Core-focused classroom, there is no better way to apply and teach these skills and standards than through the integrated use of museum primary sources and programs.

The workshops are designed for teachers and museum representatives. If you fit either category, register today and join us in a day of studying these model partnerships and setting the stage for your own partnership at home. For teachers especially, these discussions will help to facilitate creativity both in and out of the classroom and to help you better understand how museums can enhance the Common Core standards and NEWTennessee social studies curriculum.

Register today! Space is limited. Registration Deadline: May 30, 2014

Contact Lisa Oakley, oakley@eastTNhistory.org or 865-215-8828

Series Schedule:

Anderson County Schools and the Museum of Appalachia Partnership:
June 10, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Museum of Appalachia, Norris

Come and learn from the teachers and Anderson County administrator, Suzi Schmidt, who worked on the partnership, as well as tour the museum and experience the program yourself. In 2012, Anderson County fourth and eighth grade teachers developed a literacy-based, social studies-rich field visit to the Museum of Appalachia for all Anderson County fourth and eighth grade classrooms. Not only did they design the activities for the field visit to the museum, but they also designed pre- and post-visit curriculum and assessments. Fall 2014 will be the third year for this program.
Beaumont Magnet Elementary and Knoxville Area Museums Partnership June 26, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 South Gay Street, Knoxville

Knox County Magnet Supervisor Daphne Odom, Beaumont fifth grade teacher Sarah Mercer, and museum educators from the partner Knoxville museums will present on their six year experience with this partnership. Programs will be shared, evaluation methods and results will be discussed, and participants will begin to work through customized tools to identify next steps to their own museum/school partnerships. Beaumont’s kindergarteners through fifth grade students visit their Knoxville museum partners once or sometimes twice or more times each school year. Most of these visits are on-site at the museum, but outreach experiences are a part of the design as well. The social studies and science curriculums are the focus for the custom programming developed by the museums, with Common Core ELA standards integrated as well.

Pi Beta Phi Elementary and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park= Parks as Classroom June 27, 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. in Gatlinburg (location TBA)

Pi Beta Phi Elementary’s Principal Emeritus Glenn Bogart, Parks as Classroom coordinator and teacher Melissa Crisp, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) Education Branch Chief Karen Ballentine will present on the history of The Parks as Classroom partnership and the development and evolution of the program/curriculum. On-site programming will be modeled, and discussion offered on how teachers and museum partners can become involved with GSMNP educational programming. In 1991, teachers and rangers came together to create a new learning experience and curriculum for Pi Beta Phi Elementary’s kindergarten through eighth grade students. Their Parks as Classroom program was the result. As neighbors, the school and park had resources and knowledge to share and have been doing so through their ranger and teacher-facilitated programs conducted throughout the park each year, at least four trips into the park per grade level.
John Early Museum Magnet Middle School (Metro Nashville Schools) and Nashville Area Museums
June 30, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., East Tennessee History Center, 601 South Gay Street

Becky Verner, John Early instructional designer, historian, and former museum educator with the Tennessee State Museum will present a conversation on the concept, content excellence, and curriculum of John Early Museum Magnet. She will be joined by coordinator of project-based initiatives and former social studies coordinator for Metro Nashville Schools, Todd Wigginton; Mr. Wigginton also served on the state social studies curriculum committee and will discuss its relevance to museum/school partnerships. The John Early Museum Magnet School in Nashville is described as “multifaceted, innovative, and constructivist” in its curriculum design. The school prides itself in content instruction through lessons in all classrooms and grade levels that utilize museum education methods and resources. Over 30 museums, historic sites, and organizations have partnered in this effort.