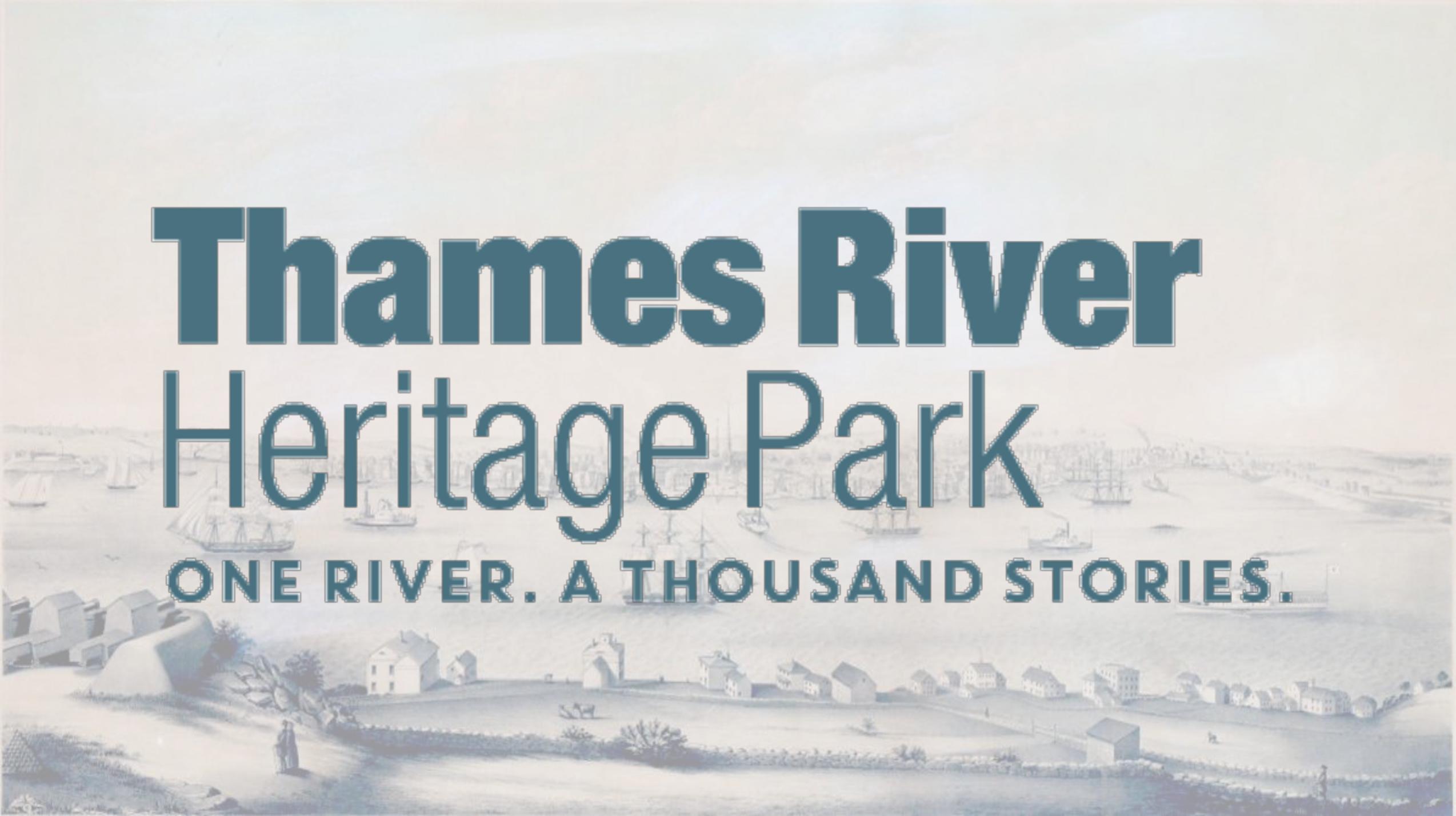


Thames River Heritage Park
Docent Academy

inspiring *and*
engaging
volunteers

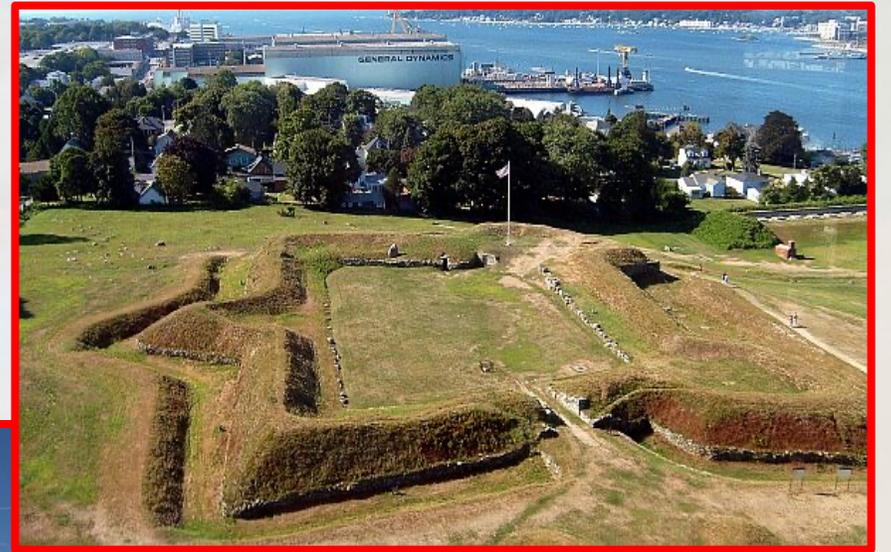
*through a new
collaborative program.*



A historical illustration of the Thames River in London, showing numerous sailing ships and a cityscape with buildings and a church spire. The scene is viewed from an elevated position on a hillside.

Thames River Heritage Park

ONE RIVER. A THOUSAND STORIES.





Connecticut Chapter
American Planning Association

2017 Implementation Award

Thames River Heritage Park

In recognition of the tenacity, collaboration and political will of a diverse group of like-minded volunteers with one vision: *One River. A Thousand Stories.*

January 12, 2018



Longfellow's Home



Portland Headlight

1



GREETINGS
FROM
PORTLAND, ME.

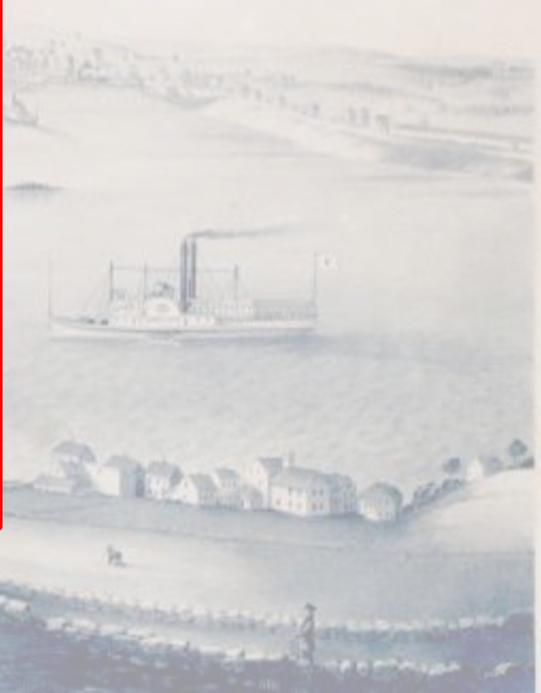


Pond in Deering Oaks



Longfellow's Birthplace

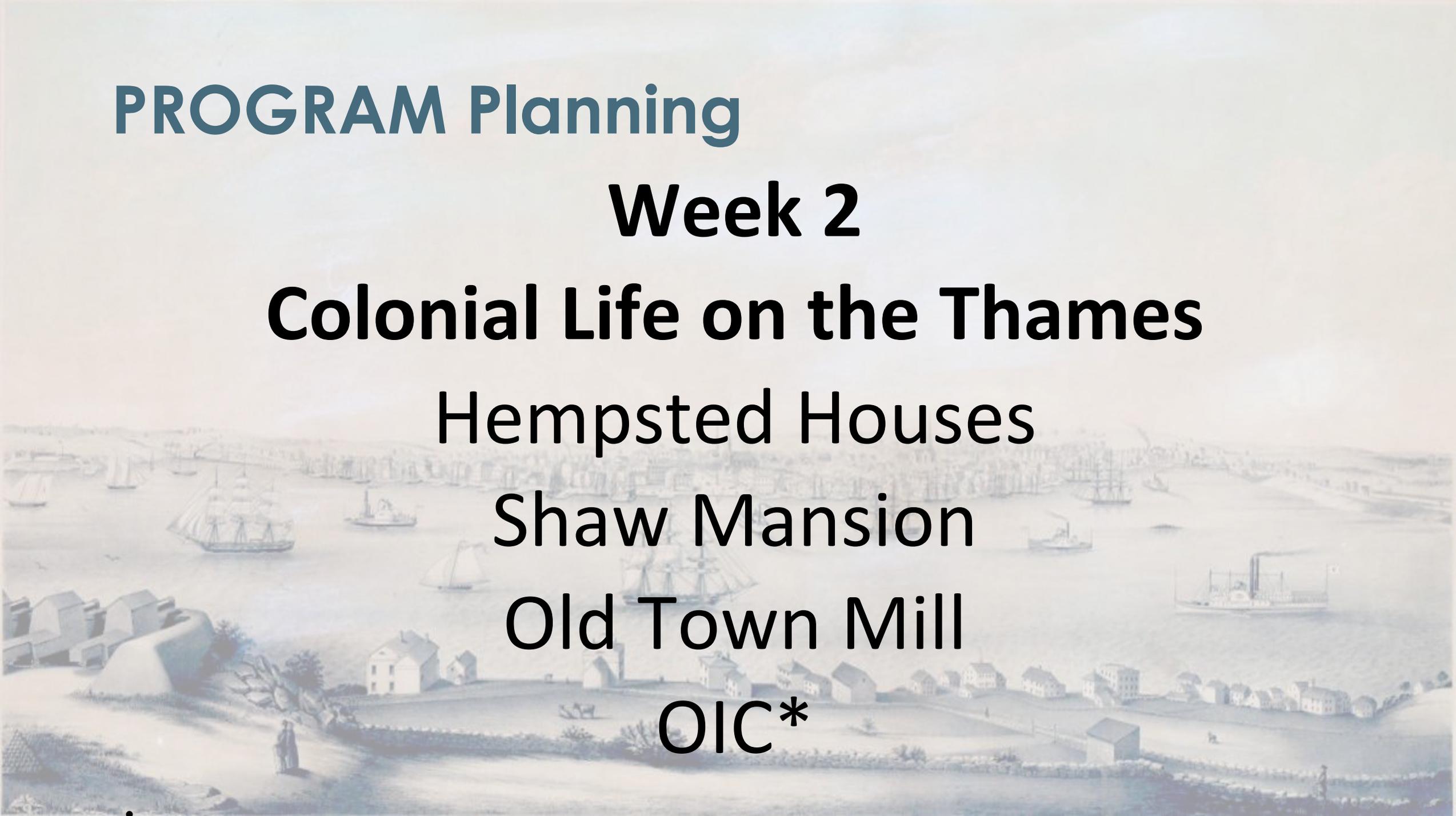
61203



WELCOME



Thames River Heritage Park
DOCENT ACADEMY

A historical illustration of a river scene, likely the Thames, showing numerous sailing ships and buildings along the shore. The scene is rendered in a muted, sepia-toned style.

PROGRAM Planning

Week 2

Colonial Life on the Thames

Hempsted Houses

Shaw Mansion

Old Town Mill

OIC*





PROGRAM Planning

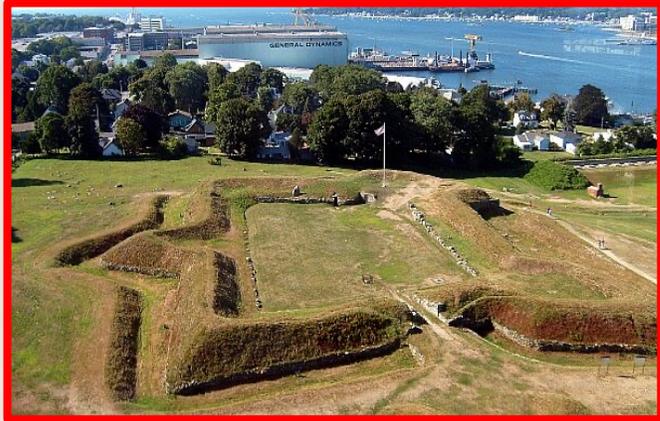
Week 5

Whaling Industry The Immigration Story on the Thames Avery-Copp House Museum*



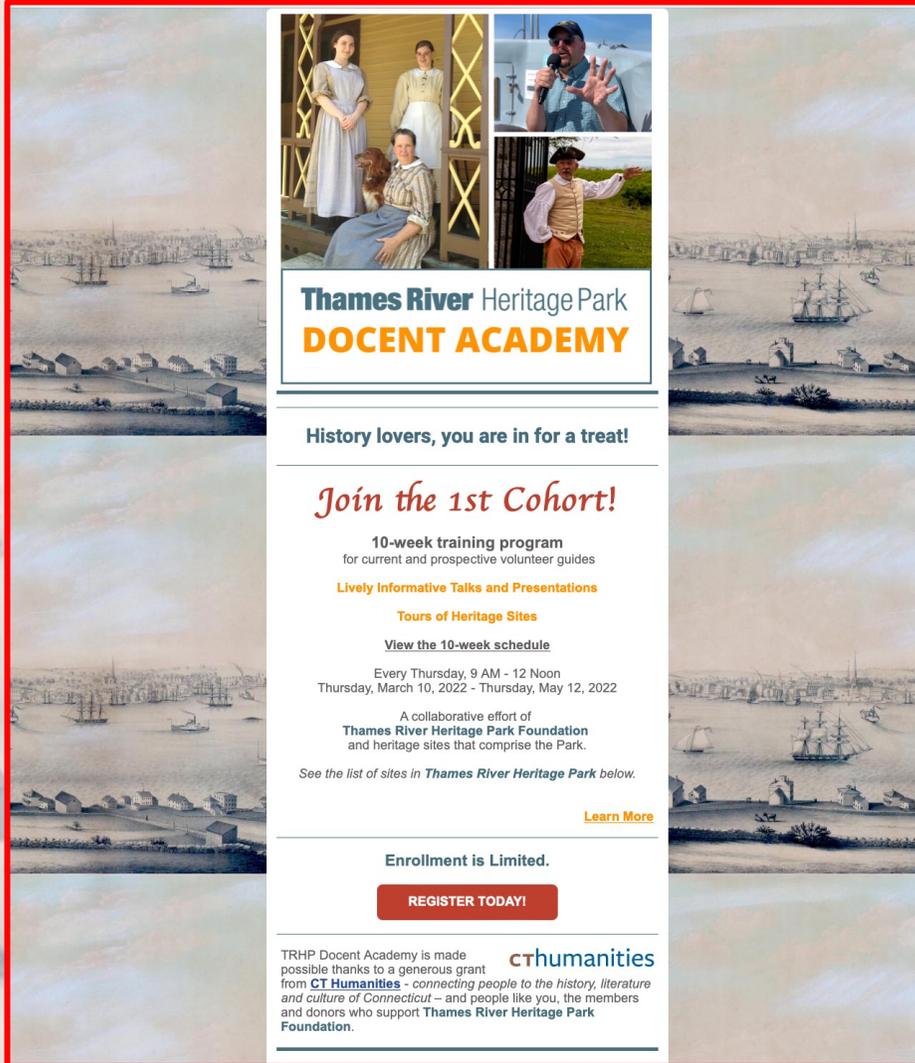
PROGRAM Planning

Host Site Information



PROMOTION

Eblast & Flyer



Thames River Heritage Park
DOCENT ACADEMY

History lovers, you are in for a treat!

Join the 1st Cohort!

10-week training program
for current and prospective volunteer guides

Lively Informative Talks and Presentations

Tours of Heritage Sites

View the 10-week schedule

Every Thursday, 9 AM - 12 Noon
Thursday, March 10, 2022 - Thursday, May 12, 2022

A collaborative effort of
Thames River Heritage Park Foundation
and heritage sites that comprise the Park.

See the list of sites in **Thames River Heritage Park** below.

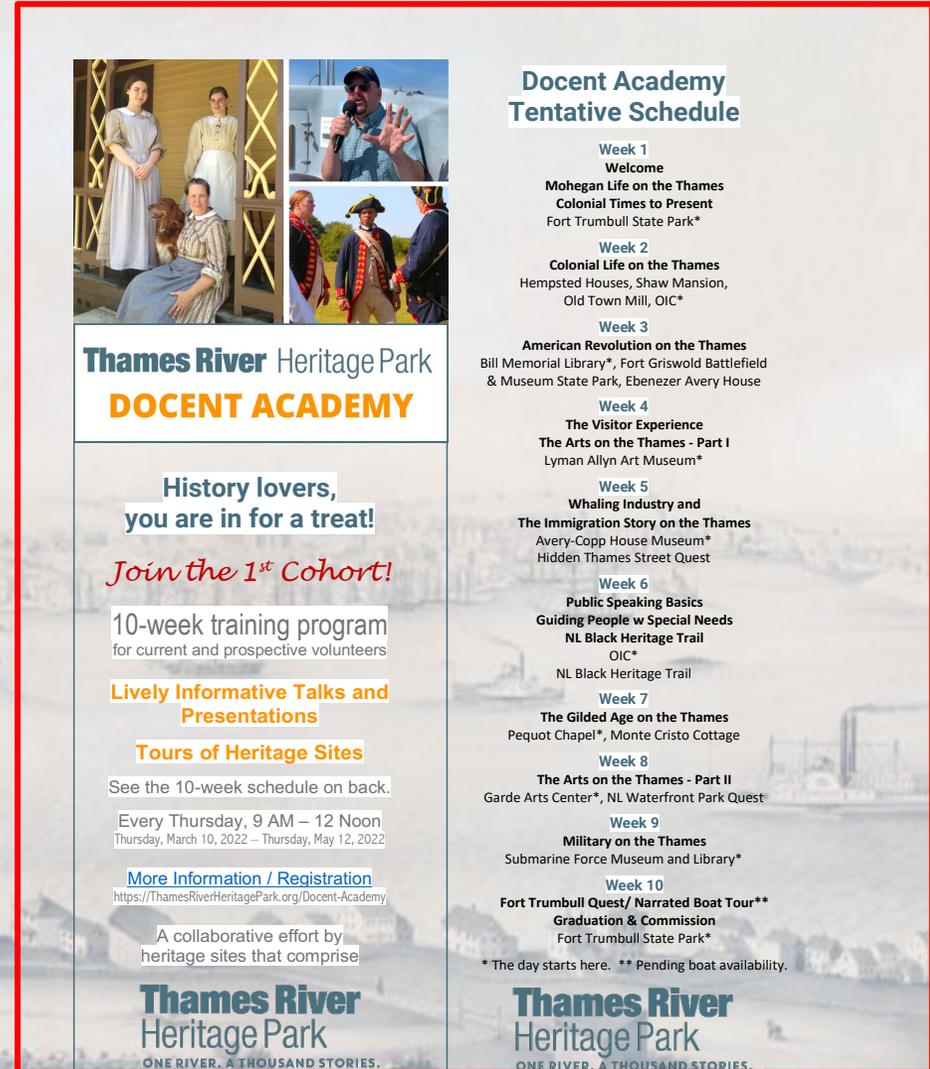
[Learn More](#)

Enrollment is Limited.

REGISTER TODAY!

TRHP Docent Academy is made possible thanks to a generous grant from **CT Humanities** - connecting people to the history, literature and culture of Connecticut - and people like you, the members and donors who support **Thames River Heritage Park Foundation**.

CT Humanities



Thames River Heritage Park
DOCENT ACADEMY

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See the 10-week schedule on back.

Every Thursday, 9 AM - 12 Noon
Thursday, March 10, 2022 - Thursday, May 12, 2022

[More Information / Registration](https://ThamesRiverHeritagePark.org/Docent-Academy)
<https://ThamesRiverHeritagePark.org/Docent-Academy>

A collaborative effort by
heritage sites that comprise

Thames River Heritage Park
ONE RIVER. A THOUSAND STORIES.

Docent Academy Tentative Schedule

Week 1
Welcome
Mohegan Life on the Thames
Colonial Times to Present
Fort Trumbull State Park*

Week 2
Colonial Life on the Thames
Hempsted Houses, Shaw Mansion,
Old Town Mill, OIC*

Week 3
American Revolution on the Thames
Bill Memorial Library*, Fort Griswold Battlefield
& Museum State Park, Ebenezer Avery House

Week 4
The Visitor Experience
The Arts on the Thames - Part I
Lyman Allyn Art Museum*

Week 5
Whaling Industry and
The Immigration Story on the Thames
Avery-Copp House Museum*
Hidden Thames Street Quest

Week 6
Public Speaking Basics
Guiding People w Special Needs
NL Black Heritage Trail
OIC*
NL Black Heritage Trail

Week 7
The Gilded Age on the Thames
Pequot Chapel*, Monte Cristo Cottage

Week 8
The Arts on the Thames - Part II
Garde Arts Center*, NL Waterfront Park Quest

Week 9
Military on the Thames
Submarine Force Museum and Library*

Week 10
Fort Trumbull Quest/ Narrated Boat Tour**
Graduation & Commission
Fort Trumbull State Park*

* The day starts here. ** Pending boat availability.

Thames River Heritage Park
ONE RIVER. A THOUSAND STORIES.

PROMOTION

Press Release & Coverage

Thames
River
Heritage
Park

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Catherine Foley
catherine.foley@thamesriverheritagepark.org
(860) 443-3352

February 9, 2022

[Thames River Heritage Park to sponsor inaugural Docent Academy](#)

NEW LONDON, CT -- [Thames River Heritage Park](#) announced the creation of a new program to support the heritage sites along the Thames. Modeled after the successful Portland (Maine) History Docent (PHD) training program, the inaugural Thames River Heritage Park Docent Academy – a 10-week training program for current and prospective volunteer guides – will begin on Thursday, March 10, 2022 and meeting every Thursday morning from 9 AM – 12 PM.

A collaborative effort by [Thames River Heritage Park Foundation](#) and the heritage sites that comprise the Park – [Avery-Copp House Museum](#), [Bill Memorial Library](#), [Ebenezer Avery House](#), [Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park](#), [Fort Trumbull State Park](#), [Garde Arts Center](#), [Hempsted Houses](#), [Lyman Allyn Art Museum](#), [Monte Cristo Cottage](#), [Nathan Hale School House](#), [Old Town Mill](#), [NL Black Heritage Trail](#), [Shaw Mansion/NL County Historical Society](#), [Submarine Force Library and Museum / USS Nautilus](#) – the [Thames River Heritage Park Docent Academy](#) features several weeks of lively and informative talks and presentations, combined with site visits to each participating site. Sessions include presentations on the history of the southern end Thames River estuary, visitor experience, Gilded Age, whaling industry, colonial life, the battle of Fort Griswold, the burning of New London and more.

The Day

Sunday, June 5th, 2022

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Be An Angel: Thames River Heritage Park to sponsor Docent Academy

Published February 23, 2022 4:00PM

Thames River Heritage Park has announced the creation of a new program to support the heritage sites along the Thames River. Modeled after the successful Portland (Maine) History Docent training program, the inaugural Thames River Heritage Park Docent Academy – a 10-week program for current and prospective volunteer guides – will begin on Thursday, March 10, and meet from 9 a.m. to noon every Thursday through May.

A collaborative effort by Thames River Heritage Park Foundation and the heritage sites that comprise the park – Avery-Copp House Museum, Bill Memorial Library, Ebenezer Avery House, Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park, Fort Trumbull State Park, Garde Arts Center, Hempsted Houses, Lyman Allyn Art Museum, Monte Cristo Cottage, Nathan Hale School House, Old Town Mill, NL Black Heritage Trail, Shaw Mansion/NL County Historical Society, Submarine Force Library and Museum / USS Nautilus – the Thames River Heritage Park Docent Academy features several weeks of lively and informative talks and presentations, combined with site visits to participating site.

Sessions include presentations on the history of the southern end Thames River estuary, visitor experience, Gilded Age, whaling industry, colonial life, the battle of Fort Griswold, the burning of New London and more. “The heritage sites that belong to the Park are very excited about this program. It will give participants a taste of the rich heritage of New London and Groton and familiarize both present and new volunteers with site programs to be discovered and explored on the Thames,” stated Catherine Foley, executive director.

Be an Angel is a regular feature. To submit, email times@theday.com (<mailto:times@theday.com>).

Upon graduation, TRHP Docent Academy participants become eligible to volunteer at the site(s) of their choice. Site-specific orientation and training are scheduled on an individual basis by the host site.

Graduates are asked to commit to a year of volunteer time in a mutually agreeable role at one of the heritage sites or institutional partner agencies.

Registration for the program is \$25 and includes private tours of heritage sites, stimulating presentations, refreshment breaks, Interpreter’s Guide to the Thames River Heritage Park, and the opportunity to graduate from the class of the Thames River Heritage Park Docent Academy.

This program is made possible thanks to a grant from Connecticut Humanities and members and donors who support Thames River Heritage Park Foundation. For more information go to thamesriverheritagepark.org or contact Catherine Foley at catherine.foley@thamesriverheritagepark.org.

IMPLEMENTATION

Collaboration

Communication

Community Connections

Commitment



IMPLEMENTATION

Weekly Email

- Location
- Schedule
- Resources
- Attire
- Contacts

Dear Docent Academy Members –

As promised, please find attached and outlined below information related to this week's session along with the schedule, directions to OIC, and link and password for the TRHP Docent Academy resource page. I regret that I will not be with you tomorrow due to exposure to someone who tested positive for COVID. TRHP Foundation program chair, Deborah Donovan, and Henry Savin (who you met last week) will both be facilitating tomorrow's session. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards –
Catherine

Docent Academy Week 2 Update

LOCATION

OIC of New London, 106 Truman St, New London, CT 06320
Directions: <https://www.oicnlc.org/directions-to-oic.html>

SCHEDULE

Tomorrow's schedule can be found on page 2 of the attachment and below.

RESOURCES

The TRHP Docent Academy resource page is an organic listing of resources which includes video, books, periodicals, and webpages on the history and heritage related to the sites and events along the Thames. It also includes an electronic copy of the Interpreter's Guide, Docent Academy daily schedule, class list. This page will be updated weekly throughout the program.

Link: <https://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/docent-academy/resources>
Passcode: **docent**

ATTIRE

Attire for this and for all sessions is casual. It is strongly recommended that you wear solid, comfortable walking shoes for all sessions. Rain is expected for tomorrow, March 17th and Hempsted Houses and Old Town Mill are not heated. **Rain gear, boots, and dressing in layers** are recommended.

CONTACTS

Catherine M. Foley	860-443-3352
Deborah Donovan	860-287-9838
Henry Savin	860-908-0057

IMPLEMENTATION

Weekly Schedule

Week Two - Colonial Life on the Thames

March 17, 2022

Start	End	Function	Location	Facilitator/Presenter
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Registration / Coffee	OIC	Committee Members
9:00 AM	9:05 AM	Check-In / Overview of the Day	OIC	Deborah Donovan
9:05 AM	9:25 AM	Colonial Life on the Thames - an overview	OIC	Pat Schaeffer
9:25 AM	9:40 AM	Travel to Next Site		
9:40 AM	10:10 AM	Group 1 Site Visit & Tour	Shaw Mansion	Steve Manuel
9:40 AM	10:10 AM	Group 2 Site Visit & Tour	Hempsted Houses	Nicole Thomas, Julie Cagle
9:40 AM	10:10 AM	Group 3 Site Visit & Tour	Old Town Mill	Judi Cox, JD Diaz
10:10 AM	10:25 AM	Travel to Next Site		
10:25 AM	10:55 AM	Group 2 Site Visit & Tour	Shaw Mansion	Steve Manuel
10:25 AM	10:55 AM	Group 3 Site Visit & Tour	Hempsted Houses	Nicole Thomas, Julie Cagle
10:25 AM	10:55 AM	Group 1 Site Visit & Tour	Old Town Mill	Judi Cox, JD Diaz
10:55 AM	11:10 AM	Travel to Next Site		
11:10 AM	11:40 PM	Group 3 Site Visit & Tour	Shaw Mansion	Steve Manuel
11:10 AM	11:40 PM	Group 1 Site Visit & Tour	Hempsted Houses	Nicole Thomas, Julie Cagle
11:10 AM	11:40 PM	Group 2 Site Visit & Tour	Old Town Mill	Judi Cox, JD Diaz
11:40 PM	11:50 AM	Gather Together		

EVALUATION - Session

Weekly Session

Presenter/Docent:

- Enthusiasm
- Knowledge
- Interaction

Session:

- Length/Complexity
- Overall Rating

Week	Session	Date	Presenter / Facilitator	Topic	Presenter Enthusiasm	Presenter Interaction	length / complexity	Session Avgs	Overall Rating
1	Overall							4.55	4.35
1	Ice Breaker	3/10/22	Catherine Foley	4.48				4.48	
1	Colonial Life to Present	3/10/22	Sally Ryan	4.83	4.87	4.65		4.61	
2	Week 2 Colonial Life							4.83	4.46
2	Colonial Life Overview	3/17/22	Patricia Schaefer	4.69	4.77	4.31		4.59	
2	Hempsted Houses Tour	3/17/22	Julie Cagle	4.85	4.85	4.85		4.85	
2	Old Town Mill Tour	3/17/22	Judi Cox and Jim Diaz	5.00	4.92	4.92		4.95	
2	Shaw Mansion Tour	3/17/22	Steve Manuel	4.85	5.00	5.00		4.95	
3	Week 3 Revolutionary War							4.66	4.50
3	Revolutionary War Overview	3/21/22	Steve Manuel	4.86	5.00	4.93	4.29	4.77	
3	Bill Memorial Library Tour	3/21/22	Wendy Connal	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.14	4.41	
3	Ebenezer Avery House Tour	3/21/22	Tony	4.86	4.79	5.00	4.57	4.80	
3	Fort Griswold Tour	3/21/22	Hali Keeler	4.79	4.71		4.43	4.64	
4	Week 4 The Arts Part I - LAAM							4.60	4.28
4	The Visitor's Experience	3/28/22	Laurie Masci	4.61	4.78	4.72	4.44	4.64	
4	Overview & History of LAAM	3/28/22	Eileen Donovan	4.61	4.50	4.67	4.44	4.56	
4	Tour of LAAM	3/28/22	Tanya P	4.72	4.83		4.22	4.59	
5	Week 5 Avery-Copp House / Whaling							4.68	4.60
5	Whaling	4/7/22	Hank Savin	4.53	4.73	4.40	4.13	4.45	
5	Immigration / ACH	4/7/22	Leslie Evans	5.00	4.93	4.93	4.73	4.90	
6	Week 6 BL Black Heritage Trail							4.65	4.45
6	Public Speaking Tips	4/14/22	Charlotte LaVasseur	4.09	4.55	4.55	4.45	4.41	
6	Guiding People w Special Needs	4/14/22	Denise Tift	4.82	4.73	4.64	4.73	4.73	
6	NL Black Heritage Trail	4/14/22	Tom Schuch and Nicole Thomas	4.91	4.82	4.91	4.64	4.82	
7	Week 7 Gilded Age							4.66	4.56
7	Gilded Age on the Thames	4/21/22	Gail MacDonald	4.81	4.81	4.50	4.75	4.72	
7	O'Neill and Monte Cristo Cottage	4/21/22	Rob Richter	4.75	4.75	4.69	4.56	4.69	
7	Pequot Chapel	4/21/22	Ann Burdick	4.69	4.44			4.56	
8	Week 8 The Arts Part II - Garde							4.59	4.36
8	Garde Arts Center History & Tour	4/28/22	Steve Sigel	4.71	4.86	4.71	4.29	4.64	
8	NL Culture on the Thames	4/28/22	Curtis Goodwin	4.57	4.71	4.71	4.14	4.54	
9	Week 9 Military							4.76	4.58
9	Military Presentation	5/5/22	Marian Galbraith Paul Whitescarver, Capt. USN Ret.	4.58	4.83	4.83	4.58	4.71	
9	Submarine Force Library & Museum Tour	5/5/22	Tom Olson, Capt. USN Ret.	4.67	4.92	4.92	4.75	4.81	
10	Week 10 Fort Trumbull / Graduation							4.11	3.75
10	Fort Trumbull Presentation	5/12/22	Ciff Carter	4.75	4.00	3.92	3.92	4.15	
10	Fort Trumbull Tour	5/12/22	Cliff Carter	4.25	3.92	4.08	4.08	4.08	

VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

Docent Academy Graduates Sign-Up to Volunteer



GRADUATION



Thames River Heritage Park **DOCENT ACADEMY**

Inaugural Class **GRADUATION**

May 12, 2022

Thames River Heritage Park **Docent Academy Graduation**

Master of Ceremonies
Land Acknowledgement
Catherine Foley
Executive Director

Words of Welcome
Michael Passero
Mayor, City of New London

Keith Hedrick
Mayor, City of Groton

History in the Making
10 Weeks in Review

Oh, the Places You'll Go
Charlotte LeVasseur
Docent Academy Class of 2022

Presentation of Certificates
Deborah Donovan
TRHP Program Chair

Henry Savin
TRHP Program Committee

Special Presentations
Catherine Foley

Closing

GRADUATION

DIPLOMA CERTIFICATE

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

«FIRST_NAME»

«LAST_NAME»

has successfully completed the inaugural
THAMES RIVER HERITAGE PARK DOCENT ACADEMY

We salute your commitment to learn and to contribute to your community
as a docent / ambassador for Thames River Heritage Park.

MAY 12, 2022



Paul Whitescarver
President



Catherine M. Foley
Executive Director

ASSESSMENT

Pre- and Post-Evaluation

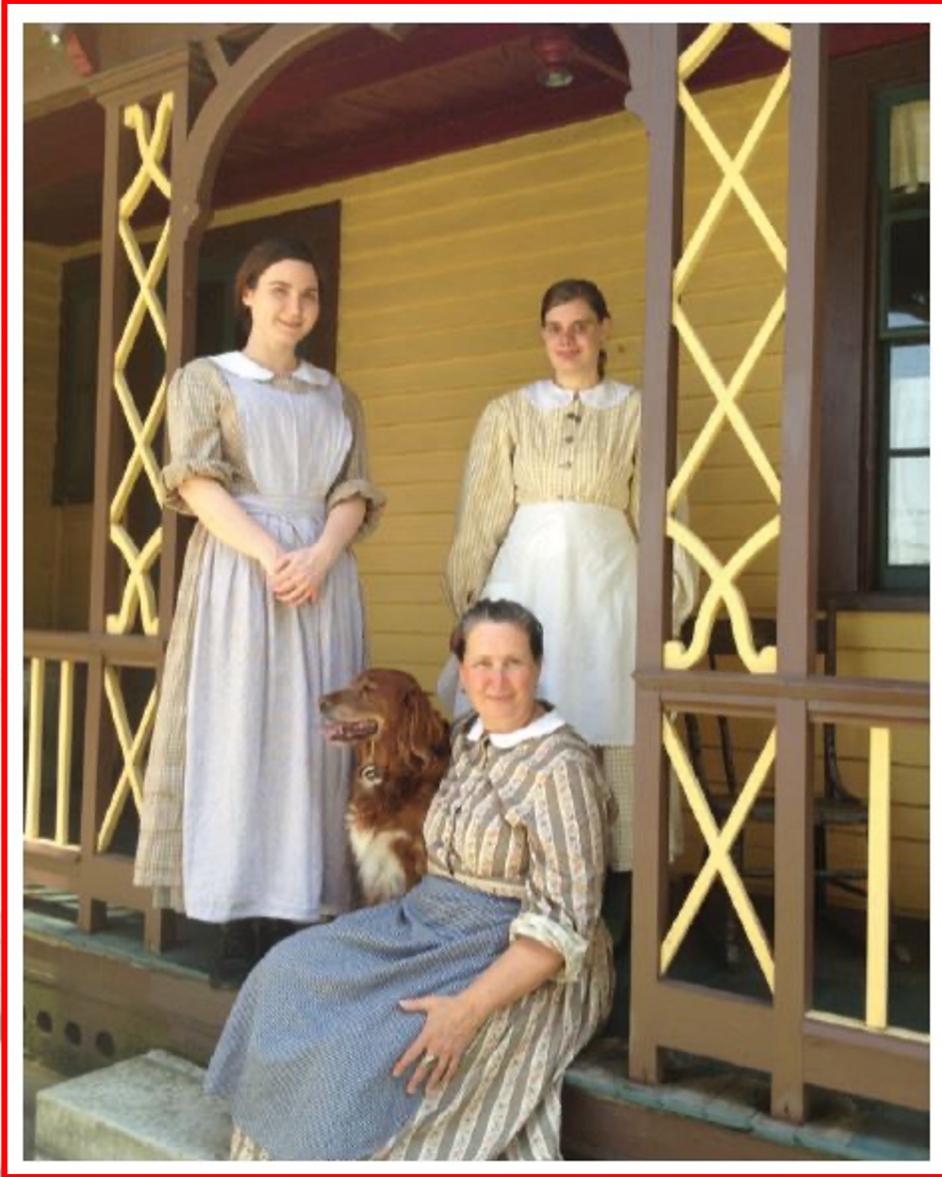
Topic	% Change
• Knowledge of Park	100%
• Understanding heritage & history	85%
• Commitment to learning history	107%
• Confidence in sharing history	121%
• Understanding role of park	232%
• Confidence in volunteering	105%
• Commitment to service	122%

LESSONS LEARNED

- **Partner Commitment**
- **Organization**
- **Flexibility**
- **Timely Communications**
- **Mobility**
- **Weather**

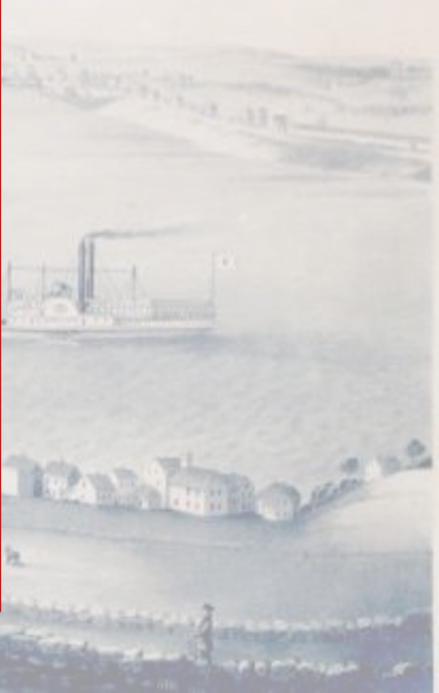




















**Thames River Heritage Park
Docent Academy Inaugural Class 2022**

A historical illustration of the Thames River in London, showing numerous sailing ships and a steamship on the water, with buildings and a fort on the riverbank.

Thames River Heritage Park

ONE RIVER. A THOUSAND STORIES.

[https://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/
/docent-academy/clho/](https://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/docent-academy/clho/)

Passcode: **CLHO2022**