



**SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES**  
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## **Save America's Treasures Education Initiative**

### **The Millennium: America's Treasures**

#### **Overview**

### **Welcome to the Adventure**

#### **Organization**

Students will experience an extraordinary two-year exploration of the millennium as they travel across America and back in time. Through a creative partnership with Save America's Treasures (a program of the White House Millennium Council), Voyager Foundation and The History Channel, student "Voyagers" will see the past come alive. They will come to understand their own important role in preserving and honoring their historic and cultural legacy in their hometowns and their nation. Voyagers will become part of a history-making initiative as they discover how profoundly the past has influenced the present, and how the present can be expected to impact the future.

#### **Part One: Celebrations and Commemorations**

#### **Part Two: Milestones and Monuments**

#### **Instructional Component**

- Explore the significance of the millennium
- Understand how humankind interprets life through time, and how we shape our future
- Reflect on the past, who we are, and what we hope to become
- Discover why commemorations are important
- Recognize enduring symbols of American tradition
- Celebrate the rich, diverse heritage of the people who define America
- Experience an historian's sense of discovery by actively examining America's treasures firsthand and through written and visual documents
- Develop a service project that will help preserve an American treasure -- national or local

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#### **Part One: Celebrations and Commemorations**

Voyagers will celebrate the new millennium as they investigate where they are, where they have been, and where they are going in relation to time and the larger world. They will share and document experiences that bring relevance and appreciation to their personal history and the history of their community, and they will use local resources to understand and discover "treasures" in their own hometowns. They also will explore the relationship between their community's history and the broader themes that have shaped America during the past 1,000 years.

Voyagers will develop a plan of action for a community wide campaign to support the preservation or restoration of a document, artifact, monument or historic site. They will learn to identify resources, prepare a press packet, hold a press conference and conduct a radio or television interview. Voyagers also will forge creative partnerships and garner support for their projects from government agencies and foundations.

## **Part Two: Milestones and Monuments**

Voyagers continue to celebrate the millennium and our cultural heritage as they broaden their focus to a national and world level. They will explore famous monuments, sites, documents, works of art, books, artifacts, statues and symbols, such as Thomas Edison's lab notes, the Alamo, Harriett Tubman's home, the cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde, the American flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the *Star-Spangled Banner* and the White House.

Voyagers will travel back in time 1,000 years with Sacajawea as their guide. Along the way, they will meet many famous American scientists, inventors, leaders, humanitarians and artisans. Voyagers will explore the way people remember these giants of American history.

At the end of the second year, Voyagers will celebrate the successful completion of their project to preserve an American treasure. They also will evaluate their contribution and develop a plan to continue this commitment to save treasures for the next millennium.

## **Parent Component**

- Parent letter in English or Spanish
- Opportunities for parent involvement in community wide project
- A list of suggested Web sites to explore at home
- Parent-Voyager learning celebrations

## **Content**

- History
- Geography
- Civics
- Language Arts
- Fine Arts

## **Suggested Guest Speakers**

The Captain and Site Director are responsible for contacting speakers who will interact with Voyagers and greatly enrich the Adventure. The following is a list of suggested speakers to invite:

- Grandparents and great grandparents
- Veterans
- Native Americans
- Museum curators
- City Planner or Commissioner
- Historians

- Librarians
- National Park Ranger
- Descendants of founders of your city
- Members of historic societies

### **Suggested Field Trips**

- County courthouse
- Museums
- Historic buildings and sites
- Historic societies
- Walking tour of historic downtown
- National, state or local park
- Libraries

### **National Standards Correlation**

#### **Civics**

- Understands the central ideas of the American constitutional government and how it has shaped the character of our society
- Understands the importance of Americans sharing and supporting certain values, beliefs and principles of constitutional democracy
- Understands the role of volunteerism and organized groups in American social and political life
- Understands the role of diversity in American life and the importance of shared values, political and civic beliefs in our increasingly diverse American society

#### **History**

- Understands how to analyze chronological relationships and patterns
- Understands historic perspectives
- Living and working together in families and communities, now and long ago
- The history of the students' state and region
- The history of the United States: Democratic principles and values and the people from many backgrounds who contributed to its cultural, economic and political heritage
- Understands major discoveries in science and technology, some of their social and economic effects, and the major scientists and inventors responsible for them
- Understands the history of the United States

#### **Geography**

- Understands how geography is used to interpret the past
- Understands the physical and human characteristics of place
- Understands the nature, distributions and migration of human populations
- Understands the patterns and networks of economic interdependence
- Understands the patterns of human settlement and their causes
- Understands how human actions modify the physical environment



**Save America's Treasures Education Initiative**  
**The Millennium: America's Treasures**  
**Outline**

**I. Celebrations and Commemorations**

- A. Significance of Millennium**
  - Create New Year's customs and traditions for the Millennium
  - Investigate millennium celebrations around the world
  - Create the ultimate millennium celebration
- B. Concept of time**
  - Develop personal timelines
  - Develop school and community timelines
  - Develop national and global timelines
- C. Treasures and commemorations**
  - Identify and classify personal treasures
  - Identify and classify school and community treasures
  - Identify and classify national and global treasures
- D. Make a difference**
  - Explore success stories about the preservation and restoration of American treasures
  - Identify and research a local item to be registered and preserved, or begin a restoration project of an already identified treasure
  - Research a similar local, state or national restoration project
  - Plan a community wide preservation campaign
  - Seek support from public and private sources

**II. Milestones and Monuments**

- A. Celebrate Our Cultural Heritage**
  - First Americans
  - Immigration
  - Expansionism
- B. National and Local Memories**
  - Buildings and monuments
  - Documents
  - Artifacts
- C. People from the Past**
  - Humanitarians
  - Scientists and inventors
  - Leaders
  - Artisans
- D. Preserving the Past for the Future**
  - Conclude project and publicize efforts
  - Commit to future preservation of American treasures



**SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES**  
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**Tentative Press Plan for Save America's Treasures'  
Education Initiative Announcement**

- What:** Press event announcing Save America's Treasures' (SAT) Education Initiative in partnership with Voyager Foundation and The History Channel. Includes interactive demonstration of SAT Millennium Curriculum to press and to group of school children as part of the announcement.
- When:** early March, in the morning
- Where:** White House or other venue such as a historic school in DC
- Who:** HRC, Dick Moe, possibly representatives from Dept. of Education, Smithsonian or Native American community and group of school-age children
- Why:** Highlight HRC's and SAT's commitment to education, and the direct link to the future: our nation's children
- Strategy:** includes the following:
- Issue a press advisory for event; invite members of the education press
  - Issue press release on-site in press kit containing: information on SAT, copies of speakers' remarks, information on curriculum
  - Distribute press release to education media list via facsimile, and post on SAT Website.
  - Follow-up with key reporters, providing press kit to reporters who could not attend event and providing additional information and quotes to reporters who did attend.
  - Follow-up with reporters who cover story in 6-9 months with success stories from teachers, students; pitch stories to mini-pages, Time for Kids, and other children's publications.



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## **Additional Information on the Save America's Treasures Education Initiative**

### **1 - Can you provide a more extensive description of the curriculum and its relationship to Save America's Treasures?**

The Millennium Curriculum is the central component of the Save America's Treasures education initiative. As such, the program and its packaging will bear the Save America's Treasures logo and name. The materials are under development and will be submitted to the White House Millennium Council for approval.

Attached is a copy of the proposed Millennium Curriculum outline based on our request to Voyager to create an in-school program for Save America's Treasures. The modular curriculum, which can be used as an in class, after school, or summer school program, is being developed by Voyager with input from The History Channel and final review by Save America's Treasures.

The curriculum relates to Save America's Treasures by teaching about 1000 years of history and the "treasures" in this country. There is a community service aspect of the program which will involve school children directly in identifying and saving local treasures. Students will come to understand how their personal histories are interwoven into the thousand-year history of our country, as their futures will become part of the next millennium. The paths that brought each child to where he or she is today will be traced as they explore their individual origins and the ancestors on whose shoulders they stand. The lessons we learn and will continue to learn from the past are understood through the documents, historic buildings, art, and natural wonders that are America's treasures.

### **2 - If there is a change in the cost of the program/curriculum, how many schools do you estimate will participate?**

We have set the cost of the two-year program to an individual school system/district at \$275.00 per classroom per year. We estimate that the program will be in 8,000 to 10,000 schools (the average school has approximately 26 classes with 23 students each) and reach approximately 5 million students. If contributions become available that subsidize the per-classroom cost, it is likely more schools would participate.

### **3 - Is the Department of Education involved in this program, how, who?**

Voyager is a national education initiative in support of America's public schools. All Voyager curricula are aligned with national and state-level established standards and are based on solid educational research. By summer of 1999 Voyager programs will be in 1000 school districts. They are already in most of the largest school districts and have experienced 300% growth every

year. Voyager programs emphasize reading development and mathematics through an interest-based format which intrigues and excites children.

Voyager has a continuing relationship with the Department of Education which is familiar with the Voyager program and its merits. Because Voyager normally operates as a for-profit venture, the Department is unable to specifically recommend Voyager, although they support their program and mission and write articles for publication in their materials.

Voyager works with the following representatives from the Department of Education:

**Dr. Terry K. Peterson**, Senior Advisor and Counselor to the U.S. Secretary of Education

**Susan Frost**, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Education

**Dr. Gerald N. Tirozzi**, Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

**Mary Jean LeTendre**, Director, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

In addition, former Secretary of Education, Terrel H. Bell served as an advisory board member of Voyager.

Voyager has relationships with a number of other federal organizations including a co-venture with the Smithsonian Institution to bring the vast resources of the museums into the classroom, a collaborative effort with the NASA-Jet Propulsion Laboratories to convert knowledge and experiences in space exploration into age appropriate curricula, and a partnership with the North Central Regional Education Laboratory sponsoring university research in early child development and reading.

In April, Save America's Treasures is tentatively on the schedule to present the Millennium Curriculum to the National School Board Association's Council of Urban Boards of Education which represents 90 of the largest school systems in the country.

We would like very much to work with the Department of Education to the extent possible.



# SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES

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Full April

4/18

Save America's Treasures Education Initiative Announcement

**Date:** ~~March~~ <sup>before April 8<sup>th</sup></sup> ~~March 17~~  
**Location:** White House  
**Time:** preferably between the hours of 9:00-11:00 am  
**From:** Sara Karrer

## Purpose

Announce the Save America's Treasures Education Initiative. An announcement in March is critical to arranging for the program to be in schools in September 1999.

## Background

Save America's Treasures has created a dynamic partnership involving Voyager Foundation of Dallas, Texas, and The History Channel, a division of A&E Television Networks, to bring a two-year Millennium Curriculum into classrooms throughout the country. On a parallel track, the program also will engage the children in hands-on community-based preservation activities that directly relate to classroom activities.

Voyager will develop the four-unit curriculum that tracks a time line of American History from 1000 to 2000 A.D. to be in classrooms in the Fall of 1999. Estimating that the program will reach five million children in elementary and middle schools in the United States, the value of the curriculum is \$985 million (based on \$197.00 per student for two years). By providing the program at cost (\$45.00 per student for two years), the savings to the schools who participate in the Save America's Treasures education initiative will be nearly \$760 million.

The History Channel will provide access to its extensive video library and input on the Millennium Curriculum. Their contribution will include the development of public service announcements and other printed materials to promote the Millennium Curriculum.

## Participants

We would like the First Lady to make the announcement of the Save America's Treasures partnership with Voyager Foundation and The History Channel. The First Lady's participation in announcing the curriculum will exemplify her high profile commitment to education and children.

Other speakers may include representatives from the Department of Education and the Smithsonian Institution. Since the first unit of the curriculum focuses on Native American history from 1000 A.D. and will be unveiled at the event, it would also be appropriate to include leaders from the Native American community, including Rick West from the National Museum of the American Indian who serves on the Millennium Committee. Children from Washington,

D.C. and Baltimore area schools will also be present.

**Press Plan**

To be developed by press representatives from the First Lady's office, White House Millennium Council and Save America's Treasures in consultation with Voyager and The History Channel.

**Scenario**

After remarks from Dick Moe, the Save America's Treasures representative, the First Lady will announce the partnership to the press and invited guests. Additional remarks may be made by representatives from the Department of Education and the Native American community.

At the announcement, members of the press and school children will learn that the curriculum will encompass the history of the last 1000 years with the first unit focusing on pre-Columbian cultures of North America. Anthropologists from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and teachers will engage the children in a sample activity from the curriculum featuring 1000-year-old native artifacts from the museum's collection. This will be an opportunity to profile the First Lady in an active educational setting that demonstrates the impact of the Save America's Treasures education initiative and the importance of teaching history and learning from the past.

**Remarks**

To be provided by speech writers with assistance from Save America's Treasures.