



Kentucky Heritage Council: High School Cemetery Program

Cemetery Workshop: Understanding Preservation & Local History Through Historic Cemeteries

Objective:

To engage students with hands-on preservation practices, deepen their connection and understanding of local history, and foster appreciation for historic cemeteries as cultural and historic resources.

Program Description:

This field program, developed and managed by the Kentucky Heritage Council (State Historic Preservation Office), offers students an applied introduction to historic preservation through cemetery research and maintenance. Designed to combine classroom learning with site-based engagement, the program explores historic cemeteries as cultural resources that reflect regional history, community identity, and changing social values.

The one-day program begins with a lecture (45-50 minutes) introducing the role of Kentucky Heritage Council, the significance of historic burial grounds, and preservation ethics and practices. Under guided supervision by qualified professionals, students will participate in a hands-on field workshop at a designated cemetery, where they will engage in maintenance activities such as safe gravestone cleaning, documentation, and contextual interpretation.

Through this experience, students will gain exposure to preservation fieldwork, develop practical skills in archival and site research, and explore preservation of historic landscapes in a modern context. The program also includes pre-visit curriculum support and post-project assignment structured to demonstrate critical assessment and interdisciplinary approaches.

Program Overview:

- **Audience and Subject Area:** High school Juniors and Seniors, relevant for history, civics, social studies, anthropology, or science subject areas.
- **Program Format:** One day program that includes an in-school preparatory lecture (45-50 minutes), travel to site provided by the school or affiliated organization, cemetery workshop, and post-program project to be completed in a classroom setting.



- **Student Learning Outcomes for the Program:** The program introduces the field of preservation by using historic cemeteries as case studies to demonstrate their social and interpretive significance through applied learning methods. Upon completion of this program, students will:
 - Develop a critical understanding of historic cemeteries as cultural landscapes and their relevance to contemporary society and public memory.
 - Demonstrate a familiarity with the mission, function, and statewide impact of the Kentucky Heritage Council (State Historic Preservation Office).
 - Understand foundational preservation principles and methodologies within the context of historic cemetery stewardship.
 - Acquire introductory experience in archival research methods relevant to historic sites interpretation and documentation.

Contact Information

For additional details on the High School Cemetery Workshop or general inquiries, please contact:

N. Nicole Konkol, Site Protection Program Administrator

Email: nicole.konkol@ky.gov

Tel : 502-892-3617

Nicole M. Roth, Site Identification Program Administrator

Email: nicole.roth@ky.gov

Tel: 502-892-3606