

Educational Catalog



Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park

Meet our Staff

Kate German, Heritage Educator comes from Phoenix, AZ where she taught for five years. Kate is also a Certified Interpretive Guide with the National Association of Interpretation. In 2007 Kate joined the staff at Hyde Memorial State Park and built their interpretive programs from one per week to five. She arrived in Angel Fire in September 2007. At Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park (VVMSP) she offers regularly scheduled talks. In 2008, she was selected to join the Teach Vietnam Teachers Network sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund in Washington, DC and traveled there for training. During the summer she works with the Shuter Library in Angel Fire to supplement their summer reading program. Recently, she began regularly scheduled sessions at the Memorial with home schooling groups in Angel Fire and Red River. Kate is working to expand the educational offerings at VVMSP to include curriculum-based educational programs and teacher training.



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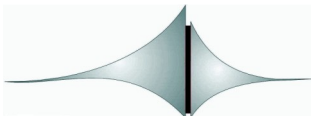
Our Educational Mission

At VVMSP we have a unique opportunity. We learn from the thousands of veterans who visit us every year. They share their stories giving us valuable insight into history.

We teach all generations about the sacrifices made by our soldiers sent far from home. In these troubled times many parallels can be seen to our past and these serve as bridges to help bring the past into focus.

The Memorial offers opportunities to focus on related topics such as patriotism, American symbols and other aspects of our history. Our staff is also prepared to offer nature lessons focusing on the Moreno Valley.

These programs can be offered at the Memorial or delivered to your classroom. We also serve those who are home-schooling their children.



The American Flag

Grades K-4

This lesson addresses the significance of our flag as an American symbol.

Students in K-2 identify changes in our flag over time and describe what the key features represent. They also discuss the origins of the Star Spangled Banner.

Students in 3-4 discuss how historical events and people influence the present day and how our flag is perceived both at home and across the globe. They explore the special symbolism of flags that have been present at key points in our history.

This lesson also includes flag etiquette. Students will understand the importance of showing respect for the flag and learn how to properly honor it even when the time comes for it to be retired.

Activities that can be included with this lesson include analyzing the Pledge of Allegiance, a writing exercise "I am proud to be an American because..." and a reading activity leading to a discussion of the cost of liberty.



Our flag is a symbol of freedom and carries that message all over the world.

Huey Helicopters in the Vietnam War

Grades 6-12

This lesson explores the transformation of the helicopter from a desirable accessory to an essential asset in war.

Hueys are the most widely used helicopter in the world and because of their distinguished service in Vietnam, they're also the most recognized. They were the backbone of the air assault forces in Vietnam and became the modern day cavalry due to their mobility. They could insert troops at a moment's notice. In the jungles of Vietnam, Hueys made it possible for wounded soldiers to be in a hospital in less than an hour.



Lessons can be tailored to almost any grade. These 8th graders came from Colorado.

Students are exposed to true stories of heroism in the face of battle. They also gain an understanding of the creativity and quick thinking required by our pilots and crews who flew these aircraft. The Huey at the Memorial was known as Viking Surprise and played an important role in a daring rescue operation. The story of this incredible day encourages students to use their own critical thinking skills to determine how to solve a problem.

Students are given the dimensions of the aircraft then materials needed to measure out the space required for it to land. This very graphically illustrates just why these helicopters were so effective in the jungles of Vietnam.

Citizenship

Grades 1-8

In this lesson students learn the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Students in grades 1-2 define citizenship and discuss examples within the school and community. They also explore the meaning of service to others.

Students in grades 3-4 look more in depth at participation and cooperation within the community. They also discuss the impact of individual and group decisions in a democratic society. This lesson explains the differences between rights and responsibilities and the role of the citizen in promoting them.

Students in grades 5-8 identify the role of citizens in upholding the constitution and in political decision making. They discuss the responsibilities that accompany our rights and look at examples from our past.

This lesson includes group activities for grades 5-8 examining rights. Younger grades will work together to generate ideas on how to demonstrate good citizenship and be an active participant in one's community.

...explain the difference between rights and responsibilities and the role of the citizen...

Military Working Dogs

Grades 2-8

The extraordinary characteristics of the dog—acuteness of his senses, his docility, his affection for man, his watchfulness and his speed enable him to be of great value for military purposes. This fact was recognized centuries ago. As methods of warfare changed through the ages, the military use of dogs changed as well.

The United States Military has been using military working dogs since WWI. They were used to even greater extent in WWII. In Vietnam over 4,000 dogs were used and over 10,000 handlers served.

The United States still uses dogs. They continue to be valuable members of our Armed Forces and are valuable assets in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This lesson traces the changing use of dogs by the military. It examines the many types of jobs that are done by dogs and what makes them so well suited for these jobs.



No matter how much training they receive, a military dog is still a dog!

Bald Eagles

Grades K-12

This lesson can be adapted for use with all grades. It touches on many different areas of the curriculum.

Students in grades K-2 identify reasons the bald eagle was selected as a national symbol. They also learn key features of the bald eagle and its habitat.

Grades 3-4 discuss the effects of pollutants on the bald eagle. They also explore other ways humans affect their habitat.

Grades 5-8 examine the ecosystems inhabited by bald eagles and identify producers, consumers, decomposers and predators. They review the components of habitat (food, water, shelter, space).

Students explore the reasons for the decline in bald eagle populations and analyze their recovery. Students in grades 5-8 can play a dice game to gain understanding of how hard it really is for an eaglet to survive.

This lesson can be adapted to different areas of the curriculum on the high school level. Some may want to use it for their United States history classroom. Science teachers may find it useful for their teachings about the environment and conservation. Teachers of economics may find it useful as well. There has been a trend in the last several years toward "ecotourism". Many places are promoting themselves as places to see bald eagles. This topic can address marketing, conservation and the development of "environmentally literate" citizens.



Bald Eagles are a common sight at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial



This class receives an orientation in the amphitheater while they eat their lunch.



These sophomores came from Albuquerque and spent half a day with us.

Nature-Themed Programs

Grades Pre K-12

The Memorial staff also offers nature-themed programs. These lessons can be adapted to many areas of the curriculum and touch on science, math and social studies topics.

Lessons may include story time and animal puppets.

- *Little Beaver and the Echo* This lesson for young students touches on echoes and friendship and features beavers, ducks, otters and turtles.
- *If You Were a Bear* The story in this book leads students through the life of a baby bear. Students learn about hibernation, food and behavior. This book lends itself easily to use with older students and adults with discussion on problem bears. The lesson can be accompanied by videos of black bears.
- *Whose Tracks Are These?* With this book young students learn about animal tracks and other signs.
- *The Little Creek* Wetland habitat and preservation is the topic for this lesson. This is another book that lends itself well to use with older grades.
- *Nature's Yucky!* This book is best for young students and explores the gross stuff that makes nature work.
- *A Pika's Tail* Learn about this rodent which lives in the high elevation of Wheeler Peak.
- *The Charcoal Forest* The cycle of fire in the forest is examined. Students learn how fire actually helps animals and plants.

A wide variety of other lessons can be offered.

- Black bears
- Animal Habitat
- Nocturnal Animals
- Winter Adaptations
- Wetlands Wildlife
- Beginning Bird Identification
- Wildflower Walks



Even the parents come to check out the "If I Were A Bear" program



For more information about scheduling a tour or classroom visit, please contact:

Kate German, Heritage Educator

PO Box 242
Angel Fire, NM 87710
575-377-2293

katherine.german@state.nm.us