



NEWS RELEASE

December 15, 2009
For Immediate Release

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Historic Site Makes Way for Modern Technology

Web Conferencing Now Available at The Hermitage

(Nashville, TN) December 15, 2009 - The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, is now offering teachers the opportunity to visit The Hermitage through web conferencing thanks to a grant awarded by Cracker Barrel. As school districts struggle to incorporate field trips into their curriculum, due to budget and time constraints, The Hermitage's education department is paving the way with modern technology. The site will be able to expand their education programs to a larger audience of students and teachers through web conferencing. Schools nationwide will be able to schedule live web-based versions of Hermitage Education classes via The Hermitage web site and through a web conferencing account with a company called Elluminate, Inc. Classrooms do not need special equipment other than web access and monitor(s).

Web conferencing creates an opportunity to bring the historic site and Jackson to life in the classroom. Not every student, whether a Tennessean or elsewhere in the country, has the chance to visit Jackson's home. "Web conferencing gives us the opportunity to share Andrew Jackson and The Hermitage with not only middle Tennessee students but students all over the country. Jackson is not only a Tennessee figure but as a U.S. President, he belongs to all of us," states Howard Kittell, Hermitage's President and CEO.

Starting January 1, a special rate of \$30 will be offered to kick off the new program and starting in February, the regular rate of \$60 will be charged. The two initial classes offered include *Corrupt Bargain on the 1824 Election* and *Trail of Tears*. Both programs can be tailored for any grade level learning about the Jacksonian Era, early American history, or Tennessee history. *Slavery at The Hermitage* will be added to the class offerings in the spring.

Interested schools may contact James Yasko at 615.889.2941 ext. 243 or jyasko@thehermitage.com.

(more)

ABOUT THE HERMITAGE:

The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, is one of the largest and most visited presidential homes in the United States. In 1856, the State of Tennessee purchased the property from the Jackson family, entrusting it to the Ladies' Hermitage Association in 1889 to operate as one of America's first historic site museums. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with over 30 historic buildings, including restored slave cabins. Thanks to efforts of this nonprofit organization, the mansion is the most accurately preserved early presidential home in the country.

The Hermitage is a national model for authenticity, conservation, and historic preservation. In recent years, new interpretive initiatives and educational programs such as archaeology and the history of slavery have enhanced the experience of some 180,000 annual visitors, including 30,000 schoolchildren, from all 50 states and many foreign countries; in fact, we interpret the Hermitage mansion in five foreign languages. The property also receives 30,000 annual visits from the local community, including over 1,000 children who play Little League baseball at The Hermitage's Rotary Park. The Hermitage is Nashville's first Smithsonian Institution Affiliate Museum; a "Partner Place" with the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and a site along the National Park Service's Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

TICKET INFORMATION:

For more information, please call 615.889.2941. The Hermitage is open daily from 9am-4:30pm and located just 15 minutes from downtown Nashville, I-40 to exit 221 or I-65 to exit 92; take Old Hickory Boulevard from either exit.

www.thehermitage.com

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