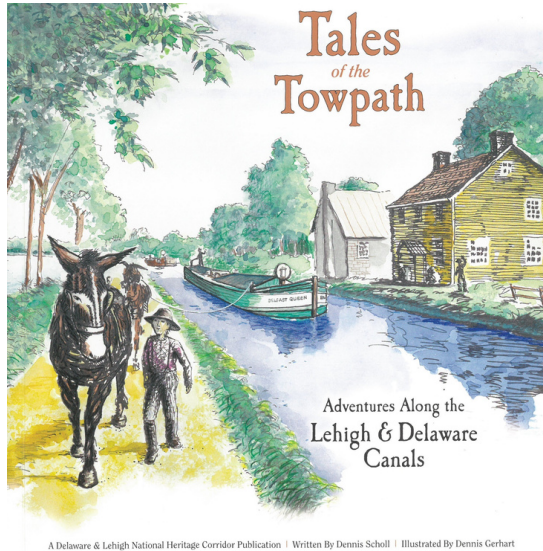


Educational Programming offered by the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

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Tales of the Towpath

Our much loved standardized elementary level curriculum is being taught in over 50 schools in the region. This story teaches about America's Canal Age and the towns and industries of our region through an engaging storybook with related lessons, assessments, and classroom activities. We reinvigorated the curriculum by updating its website last year and offering teacher training. We survey teachers annually to make sure we are meeting the needs of the classroom.

Visit TalesoftheTowpath.org to see more!

Virtual School Programming

While in less demand now that schools have resumed field trips, we still have a robust offering of virtual educational programs. This continues to be a great alternative for schools who can not physically visit our sites due to distance or cost.

Immersion Days

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we were finally able to offer our Immersion Days field trip this spring. Teachers and students were so happy to get to go on field trips again and do some hands-on learning.

Fourth-grade students and their teachers joined us at the National Canal Museum located at Hugh Moore Park in Easton to enjoy full days of hands-on STEM-related activities highlighting the history of local canals. Throughout their day they learned about simple machines, geology, blacksmithing, friction and buoyancy, and daily life on canals in the late 1800s. For those who also read *Tales of the Towpath*, this experience helped bring the story alive. While some schools were still unable to travel, we were able to educate 1,655 students from 9 different districts and 21 different schools. We hope to return to pre-pandemic levels (2,000-2,500 students) next year.



Freemansburg Field Trips



Every fall, we educate all of the Bethlehem Area School District's 4th-grade students about local canal history. After two years of providing virtual experiences, this year was our first year back on-site at the Freemansburg Canal Education Center. It was a heavy lift to get the site ready again for 975 students to visit us over a 3-week stretch in October. However, through the combined efforts of volunteers, the facilities crew of Freemansburg Borough, and some of our own educators, we got the job done. Over three weeks, we had 9 educators work daily to help the students make connections between this historical site and the story they were reading in class, *Tales of the Towpath*. During their 4-hour visit, they learned about the daily life of a lock tender, how to harness a mule and to draw one, participated in an archeological dig in the ruins of a grist mill, and churned cream into butter as well as other hands-on lessons. By the time they leave the site they have a much better understanding of the way life was lived in their "backyard" in the late 1800s.

Museum Experience

We accommodate as many schools as possible through our two field trip programs. However, we have more requests for programming than can be met during those two programs in the spring and fall. To address the need, we offer the Museum Experience to allow summer school programs and other youth organizations to take part in an educational program that utilizes our mule-drawn boat rides and the National Canal Museum's exhibits. This has allowed us to reach an additional 455 more children this year.

