

February 2011

Ohio Commemorates the Civil War

By Callie McCune, Civil War Leadership Corp
Ohio History Service Corps, Ohio Historical Society

Are you ready to take advantage of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War?

The next four years mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, offering a unique chance to engage your local community. Virtually every Ohioan alive during the Civil War was touched in some way by this defining conflict. The upcoming anniversary, from 2011 to 2015, gives your organization the opportunity to offer diverse programming options, as well as increase attention and visitation to your site, events and programs.



Charged with leading the sesquicentennial commemoration effort, the Ohio Historical Society is supporting local communities by providing assistance with planning, coordination and promotion. Check out ohiocivilwar150.org for more information and to access the many resources available, including a calendar of events, resources, AmeriCorps volunteer support, educational materials for teachers, collections information and chat rooms.

Ten AmeriCorps volunteers have been placed with partner organizations around the state to directly assist commemoration efforts in their area. Each volunteer is working with local tourism groups, historical and civic organizations, libraries and schools to make the most of telling Ohio's story before, during and after the Civil War. Learn more about the AmeriCorps member in your area and how they can help you by visiting the Civil War 150 website.

Don't know where to start? Here are a few ideas to get your Civil War commemoration started:

- Check out the Civil War 150 Speakers Corps for a list of great presenters and historical interpreters covering numerous topics from John Brown to Ulysses S. Grant. See the complete list and request a speaker by visiting the Ohio Humanities Council website at www.ohiohumanities.org.
- Host the Ohio Civil War 150 traveling exhibit at your organization. The exhibit explores Ohio's role in the Civil War and will be circulating the state starting in April 2011. The exhibit is flexible, affordable, and designed for small spaces. For more information on hosting the exhibit, please send an e-mail to civilwar150@ohiohistory.org.
- Inspire your visitors to connect to their family histories. Collaborate with your local genealogical society to allow your patrons to discover their Civil War ancestors.
- Did you know that the [Library of Congress](http://www.loc.gov) has more titles on the Civil War than any other topic? Select a few from those 26,000 volumes and create a reading program around Civil War-era literature.

For more resources and ideas, visit the Ohio Civil War 150 website at www.ohiocivilwar150.org.

<http://library.ohio.gov/marketing/Newsletters/TheNews/2011/February/OhioCommemoratesCivilWar>