

Coffee Talk with Partner Sites- May 14, 2020

Thank you to all who attended our Coffee Talk discussion Thursday, May 14. It was great hearing from our sites and we appreciate all the hard work every site is doing! Below are notes from the meeting as well as Q & A from the chat box. There is also a list of links available from the discussion. The biggest take away is to know what is best for your site, your staff and your visitors. There is no mandate to open immediately. Create a plan on how to open that best suits your site and an updated written policy for staff and visitors be able to follow. Below are some of the sites who spoke on how they are dealing with reopening:

Wendy Scardino, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium and Mathias Ham Historic Site:

There have been preparation plans for reopening for the past month--prepared for when Gov. Reynolds allowed for it. They have a 15-page document on procedures/process for reopening. Wendy highlighted some of the exterior processes: *Staff will be temperature checked prior to entering the building, if a temp above 104, they will be asked to go home. *All staff will wear a mask. *Anyone handling money will be wearing gloves as well. *The facilities team have made clear dividers between staff and visitors. *Went down to one point of entrance for the site and have created directional flow signing (worked with a company) as well as floor decals reminding 6 ft social distancing. *created policy signing for visitors as well as asking visitors to wear masks, but is not a requirement.

*They have noticed online camps have not been as popular (could be overload from online learning already) but created things that the local library has been using.

*Conscious of staying in touch with staff- two emails every week to keep focus and moral up.

*Stressed sites to have clear visitor policies and posted for them to see, so you are able to take action if visitors come sick, etc. (see Q&A for example)

Ruth Haus, Living History Farms:

Ruth also spoke to updating their visitor policy and will be printing and posting (See attached Q&A). Staff as well as visitors (campers) will have temperature taken before entering complex. They are allowing cancellation of camp investment; however, for every camp cancellation they are seeing another registration. People still need daycare for the summer and LHF wants to be able to provide those opportunities to families. Starting June 3- three camps will take place. The following week, they are slated to run all their camp programs.

To help mitigate cleaning areas from contact: *Many of the hands-on activities will now turn into demonstrations. *The historic baseball game will still take place, but instead of providing bleachers it has turned into bring your own chair.

Ruth noted, since accredited with the American Camp Association, they are required to have a certain number of hours of camp time. However, ACA has reassessed where the hours come from and are allowing online/virtual hours to count in order to stay accredited.

Cindy Goodner, Seed Savers Exchange:

SSE's farm has been closed. They have transitioned offering curbside pickup: order online and make an appointment to pick up. Also working to creating virtual event, the biggest event of the year is the weekend long Conference and Campout that usually takes place the third week in July. The tomato testing alone brings in 500 people, the summer concert around 1000 visitors. SSE is hoping by going virtual, they can bring in an audience even wider spread than the Midwest. During this time, they have created a new program called the Resilience Garden Effort. A project in supporting local gardeners, creating model gardens for beginners with hopes to share all the season's produce with local food pantries.

Victoria Cote, Mathias Ham Historic Site, DCHS:

Working with a large historic house with many small rooms got the staff for this site thinking. Victoria commented that she got back to basics and walked the entire house. Noted the flow, how would a 7ft wide hallway work with visitors passing each other, as well as reworking furniture to accommodate proper distancing. The team decided on timed-tickets of 1hr slots. The modified tour should take 30-40 minutes and they are allowing 15 people/timeslot. They have designated areas that will work for overflow if a group is taking longer in an area as well as rooms that will be a waiting space between ticket rounds; even as a rain option. They have designated areas for staff on the first and second level to control group movement and encourage social distancing.

Candy Welch-Streed, SSNHA Director of Partnerships:

Candy again thanked sites for joining and their ongoing effort to keep things moving and staying safe and healthy. Again, she reminded sites it is not mandatory to reopen. This should be done as the site feels they are ready to open to the public and provide a safe environment for visitors. She commented there is currently not a state-wide stockpile of PPE and cleaning supplies for companies to work with. Attached in the Q&A are different links and options to consider.

Laura Elfers, SSNHA Educational Engagement Director:

Laura introduced the **COVID-19 Resilience Program Award** launching on the SSNHA website on Monday, May 18. <https://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/partner/grant-opportunities/> A detailed email will go out the end of this week. The goal is to help as many designated partner sites be able to reopen safely. It will be first come, first served and money must be spend by August 31, 2020. *You will need to have 2019 Site expenses ready for the application process as the money awarded is tiered based on site expenses.*

SSNHA will consider award requests to:

- Support Organizational Adaptivity. Strengthen the ability of SSNHA Partner Sites to address barriers to organizational functionality. This includes organizational technology and other infrastructure supports, such as PPE and disinfecting supplies, to enable continued work
- Support Programmatic Adaptivity. Strengthen the ability of SSNHA Partner Sites to preserve and tell the story of American agriculture by shifting and/or expanding existing work to support audiences, members, and stakeholders. Examples include digital engagement, online outreach, etc.
- Assist SSNHA Partner Sites experiencing staffing and/or volunteer gaps due to quarantines and physical distancing.
- Help SSNHA Partner Sites cover operating expenses incurred during pandemic-related closures and cancellations, such as staffing, utilities, and rent.

Q&A

Q. I'm curious how sites are handling summer camps, both personal and professional opinions. If you are a parent, are you sending your kids anywhere?

A. Ruth Haus, Living History Farms: The American Camping Association is issuing a field guide by the 18th and is doing another webinar on guidelines for camp. LHF plans to start running camps the week of June 3 with three camps and the following week run all camp programs.

A. Abbey Harkrader, Motor Mills: We have cancelled our summer camps for the summer. We are waiting to decide on our End of summer STEAM Daycamp at Motor Mill HS.

A. Michelle Adams, Carnegie Cultural Center: Our summer arts camp takes place mid August, and as of now, we are still planning to hold it. On a personal note, I will be allowing my children to participate in activities - sports, etc as it becomes available.

A. Dan Cohen, Fontana Park Nature Center and Richardson-Jakway Foundation Historic Site: We have canceled all education programming indefinitely. Indoor display floors and offices are closed indefinitely. We do have a phased plan once our Board acts on moving forward. Campgrounds currently are closed through May and cabins through June, but our Board will re-assess during their regular meetings (next meeting is May 19).

Q. How are sites addressing getting cleaning supplies and other things, e.g. plex-glass, etc. to safely reopen?

A. Ruth Haus, Living History Farms : We found our thermometers on amazon. We also ordered plexiglass that came in within 2 weeks from a vendor. If you email me, I can help you with that resource.
Rhaus@lhf.org

A. Victoria Cote: Mathias Ham Historic Site, DCHS: Homemade cleaner: *1 part vodka (60%), 1 part water. (limoncello works well on corsets)*. The spray is designed not to replace dry cleaning or hand washing, but to help between washing. Depending on fabric, you can use less water. Many fabrics can tolerate straight Vodka. Always do a test swatch. I've reached out and will provide a list to Candy as soon as I get it from our facilities director and IT director on cleaning/sanitation products, supply and homemade sanitizer recipes. * Purell wipes should not be used on wood

A. Melody Lager, Heartland Museum: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

A. Angi Reid, Waterloo Center for the Arts: Here is a list of EPA okayed products to clean surfaces. As you can see Oxivir works well because you only need to apply for 1-3 minutes from application.
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

A. Emily Rose Haga, Seed Savers Exchange: noted they had luck working with a local Winneshiek seamstress union in making masks for their site.

Q. Marcia McKelvey, Vesterheim Museum: What are SSE thoughts about when you might reopen?

A. Cara Miller SSNHA Executive Director: For Silos, we are opening next week for staff only to work in our offices. We are remaining closed to the public until June 1 and will reassess then.

A. Cindy Goodner, Seed Savers Exchange: SSE is currently open for self-guided tours to enjoy our gardens, hiking trails, and apple orchards (which are currently in bloom!). Shop for curbside pick up here: https://lgvc.seedsavers.org/?fbclid=IwAR2f_T98fSrJfmeEBS5P8KYJHcsnO-fdURvINEW-SK6GbYX8Bp2BAQ9ajXs

And here more about our pivot to support home gardeners through our resilient gardening effort here.

https://www.facebook.com/seedsaversx/videos/240479227043561/?_xts=%5B0%5D=68.ARDAVNz5i0h3HMIeil1b3AWN2xljJQhVLXnT64Bdhj98pszxbp6Ay3C33IJ5qMR4D-kS3X48XrCMp-bK4SUDNeB_CVxZaUITsOxOGcO6zscrsFgww-TzdIDRVZUsKlp6P17K0iv5a5HTb2w45LGINVyiBnYrhLukRXaDyahVDqV1GuHKhSNJTulnwVmDxcrzDRDiFht2_gza48KBa4AxDadVyaxp7_wPQJvWSRhtEnccPYP7oyx2X1zGrgoaB7eeWbUI5imhOP8HRPXNP4h7UQpLergbwfhCfp2KG_wWSdJARxquel8eL5oMnafRdgaFdQwOcoDWBNMJjN2o2ajmpkv5TDU4i--IDRgSnQ&_tn_=-H-R

Q. Jane Metcalf, Motor Mill Foundation: Are you all allowing family groups to stay together and just social distance from other individuals or will individual members of families also need to social distance?

A. Michelle Adams, Carnegie Cultural Center: My opinion is that family groups should be allowed to stay together.

A. Victoria Cote --Mathias Ham Historic Site, DCHS: Yes, family groups can stay together at our sites.

A. Ruth Haus, Living History Farms: Family groups so long as they are under 10 may stay together.

Q. Jane Metcalf, Motor Mill Foundation: Wondering what you will instruct your frontline workers to do if you see a visitor repeated coughing or sneezing without covering their face or using their elbow?

A. Ruth Haus, Living History Farms: We have a manager on duty each day we are open to handle emergency or uncomfortable guest conversations to help if someone is not complying with our visitor code of conduct.

Q. Cheryl Erb, Carrie's Girlhood Home Museum: Could you share a sample Visitor Code of Conduct?

A. Ruth Haus, Living History Farms: The old one is on our **website <https://www.lhf.org/code-of-conduct/>**and we also have it posted at our entrances in large poster size. The new one is in the process of being finalized and printed for when we open on the first.

A. Wendy Scardino, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium and Mathias Ham Historic Site: Here is wording for guests that will be posted outside the facility: Welcome! We're so glad you're here. This is a place of discovery, inspiration and happiness. Please help us keep it that way by reviewing these guidelines and reminders.

1. Stay with the ones who came with you, and practice social distancing with other guests.
2. Please consider using a face mask and cover your cough. Our staff are required to wear masks

for their safety and yours. Please reciprocate.

3. Wash your hands often in our restrooms or use hand sanitizer provided.
4. Reminder not to touch your face.
5. Outside water bottles and food are not allowed at this time. Drinks and snacks are available for purchase inside.
6. Please follow our directional arrows to avoid congestion.
7. If you have any of the following symptoms, please do not enter: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and/or new loss of taste or smell
8. If you appear to have any of the above symptoms, you may be asked to have your temperature taken and/or directed to leave the facility

Thank you for visiting!

Q. Ruth Haus, Living History Farms: As a national heritage area site are there any requirements we as a site need to also consider and comply with?

A. Cara Miller SSNHA Executive Director: National Heritage Areas have been following guidelines from the National Park Service in regard to reopening. I would add that they do advocate to do what's best locally for all parks and heritage areas. <https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/news/public-health-update.htm>

Q. Michelle Adams, Carnegie Cultural Center: For those of you doing "phased" opening.... how long are you planning to be in Phase 1?

No typed answers. Vocally discussed to see how thing progress and how the process works

Q. Abbey Harkrader, Motor Mill Historic Site: Where can sites go to try using timed tickets? Are there multiple resources for this?

No typed answers.

Other shared information from sites:

**Ruth Haus, Living History Farms: we have been using Trello as our main communication tool daily to keep everyone updated on COVID-19 related info. It is a tool we have been using for more than a year to communicate with staff. We also do bi-weekly all staff zoom meetings and weekly director meetings.

**Victoria Cote, Mathias Ham Historic Site, DCHS: The Fleet Science Center put out a survey for their visitors to understand their comfort levels of returning and the benefit of digital content.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YQRRKPC>

Comments from this: For Living History Farms we will not use the survey to determine our opening date but it will inform attendance forecasts and how we need to staff.

**Wendy Scardino, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium and Mathias Ham Historic Site : I know zoos and aquariums are very different than most museums, etc. but there is a lot of great information out there as zoos and aquariums across the country are reopening. We're learning a lot from them.

**Mallory Hanson with Gilbertson Conservation highlighted trail counters they are using: Trafx Infrared Trail Count Devices. This style is for outdoor trail use. <https://www.trafx.net/>

**There was interest from attendees to continue ongoing calls with Silos Sites to collaborate and discuss ongoing issues/concerns. It was also noted for "smaller" sites, marketing will look much different than a larger site with potentially more traffic and that could be interesting to look at and discuss. Breaking down by category was also discussed for future calls.

Links:

The American Camping Association is issuing a field guide by the 18th and is doing another webinar on guidelines for camp: check out <https://www.acacamps.org/>

DSM Forward is a compilation of playbooks devoted to helping businesses and industries prepare for next steps related to economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. DSM Forward includes industry-specific playbooks with assessments and recommendations — leveraging international, national, state and local sources, and following federal, state and local public health official recommendations — to help guide businesses and organizations as they determine pathways toward the future in an everchanging landscape. Continue to check back as they upload more playbooks:

<https://www.dsmpartnership.com/covid-19/dsm-forward>

Resources Web Page: silosandsmokestacks.org/covid-19-resources

Facebook Group for Partner Sites facebook.com/groups/170507247480694/

Silos & Smokestacks **eInfo**: join for weekly updates

COVID-19 Resilience Program Award : Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) established the COVID-19 Resilience Program Award to help those designated SSNHA Partner Sites affected by the impact of the Coronavirus in the heritage area. This program will address the immediate and longer-term needs of heritage area sites in reconnecting with their audiences with agricultural stories and experiences and/or reopening in this new COVID environment. Check out <https://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/partner/grant-opportunities/> on May 18th for details and application process.