

New Bedford's Junior Ranger Service Corps receives award for Outstanding Volunteer Service!



*National Park's Junior Ranger Service Corps
Receives Regional Award*

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park's Junior Ranger Service Corps received the 2014 Northeast Region George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in the Youth Group category. The group developed a project to research New Bedford's South Water Street neighborhood during the 1850s, the heyday of whaling. With this material, the Junior Ranger Service Corps presented their findings by portraying individuals who lived on South Water Street during that time.

The Junior Ranger Service Corps is a group of 4th to 8th graders who meet monthly at the park to learn about history

and offer their service to the community. In 2013-14, Junior Ranger Service Corps members learned about the diversity of New Bedford and spent considerable time researching who lived in the city during the height of the whaling industry. Youth participants used the 1851 city directory to make a list of all the people who lived or worked on South Water Street and learned about their ethnicities and occupations. This information was used to build a model of the street using boxes to represent the buildings and sites found in the directory. Each member of the group dressed in appropriate clothing and wrote a statement about the person they portrayed. The public presentation of "The South Water Street Project" on July, 2013 AHA! (Art History and Architecture) night last year offered visitors an opportunity to get a sense of what it would have been like to walk down Water Street and speak to the residents in 1851. Visitors learned about the diversity of residents, their occupations, and stories such as a nurse who lived on the street and was nearly sold into slavery. AHA! is a free arts & culture event which takes place the 2nd Thursday of every month in Downtown New Bedford.

The Junior Ranger Service Corps is seeking new participants for this coming school year (September through June). Applications for the program can be obtained at the National Park Visitor Center or downloaded at www.nps.gov/nebe/forkids/service.htm.

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park was established by Congress in 1996 to help preserve and interpret America's nineteenth century whaling industry. The park, which encompasses a 13-block National Historic Landmark District, is the only National Park Service area addressing the history of the whaling industry and its influence on the economic, social, and environmental history of the United States. The National Park visitor center is located at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. It is open seven days a week, from 9 AM-5 PM, and offers information, exhibits, and a free

orientation movie every hour on the hour from 10 AM-3PM. The visitor center is accessible to all. Admission is free. For additional information and schedules, go to the park website at www.nps.gov/nebe or visit the park's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NBWNHP>.
