

Donate to the Emmett Till Interpretive Center



Photograph taken in front of Little Rock Central High School featuring members of Emmett Till Interpretive Center board members, staff, and advisory committee.

Exploring History and Building Community: Emmett Till Interpretive Center Board Retreat

The recent board retreat of the [Emmett Till Interpretive Center](#) brought together a dedicated group of individuals, including board members, staff, and advisors, in the vibrant city of Little Rock, Arkansas.

The location held special significance as it allowed participants to visit the Little Rock Central High School National Monument, a symbol of courage and resilience in the fight for civil rights.

In 1957, Little Rock Central High School stood as a battleground for equality, marking a pivotal moment in American history following the landmark Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The bravery of the Little Rock Nine, who faced hostility and adversity as they sought to integrate their school, serves as a testament to the ongoing struggle for civil rights and educational equality. Their legacy continues to inspire generations worldwide.

Moreover, the retreat received a fantastic tour from Park Ranger Randy Dodson, who showcased the possibilities for the National Monument. His expertise and enthusiasm illuminated the potential for the center to become a beacon of education and remembrance.

Dr. Susan Glisson facilitated engaging team-building activities that fostered a sense of unity and purpose among participants. The Robert Raben Group led strategic planning sessions, sparking lively debates and charting a clear path forward for the center's initiatives.

A highlight of the retreat was a session led by Dan Sakura of Sakura Conservation Strategies, focusing on the importance of cultivating a strong Friends Group to support the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument. Mr. Sakura is an experienced conservation leader who has worked with the National Park Service and non-profit partners across the country to protect and expand the National Park System to help tell stories of the Japanese American incarceration and African American struggle for freedom and equality. Participants gained valuable insights into effective advocacy and community engagement strategies to support the new Till National Monument.

Superintendent William Cheek provided updates on the progress and challenges facing the Emmett Till National Monument, offering valuable perspective on the center's mission to honor Emmett Till's memory and promote racial justice.

Harriet Sanford shared her expertise on what it means to be a great board member, emphasizing the importance of commitment, collaboration, and strategic vision in advancing the center's goals.

Overall, the retreat was a resounding success, energizing participants and instilling a sense of optimism for the future of the Emmett Till Interpretive Center. As they continue their vital work of preserving history, promoting dialogue, and fostering understanding, they remain steadfast in their commitment to honor the legacy of Emmett Till and all those who have fought for equality and justice.

National Park Foundation Hill Day by Renee Ombaba

As a representative of the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, I had the privilege of joining National Park Foundation Hill Day, meeting with Mississippi Congressional and Senate members to

advocate for crucial funding for the NPF.

Connecting with fellow Mississippians on Capitol Hill was inspiring, fostering a sense of unity and purpose in preserving our state's history. The support from the National Park Foundation was invaluable, reaffirming our mission's importance.

I loved the experience and look forward to future collaboration, working together to ensure our national parks receive the support they need to thrive.



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