

Donate to the Emmett Till Interpretive Center



Film Showcase Highlights Student Work from the 2024 Delta Film Academy

The annual Mississippi Delta Film Academy concluded on Saturday, June 29th, with a student showcase open to the community. Workshop leaders Dr. Davis Houck and Dr. Pablo Correa collaborated with a small team of instructors to teach twenty-four students from the Mississippi Delta about filmmaking techniques over the 2-week Delta Film Academy workshop. Through hands-on use of film equipment, the participants applied what they'd learned about film and civil rights history as they visited various sites in the Delta and interviewed local civil rights figures. Over the two weeks, the students worked on shooting, producing, and editing their own films.

The Film Academy student showcase was hosted at the Tallahatchie County Courthouse in Sumner (pictured below). Germaine Hampton, one of the Film Academy instructors, said students were enthusiastic about showing their work to others, and attendees were impressed by what the students had produced.

"This event highlights the wonderful results of giving young people the tools and knowledge to share their local history," Mr. Hampton said.



Photo credit: RJ Fitzpatrick

"All the hard work we endured to make the films that were showcased was worth it," said Kennedy Williams, a Film Academy 2023 graduate who served as an intern for the latest cohort.

You can see a selection of the student work from this year in this YouTube [playlist](#). We're so proud of the work they've done!

We are grateful for the support of the National Park Foundation and our private donors who made this year's program possible. If you would like to support the Film Academy and ETIC's other youth programs, please [donate](#) at our website.

View some of the 2024 Delta Film Academy student films here:



DONATE

Alluvial Collective's Summer Youth Institute Visits Till Sites

[The Alluvial Collective](#) hosted its [Summer Youth Institute \(SYI\)](#) in mid-June, and part of the experience included visits to the Tallahatchie County Courthouse, Graball Landing, and the seed barn where Emmett Till was murdered. Jay Rushing, ETIC's Youth Coordinator, and Benjamin Saulsberry, ETIC's Public Engagement and Museum Education Director, led the tours of those sites and facilitated conversations among the students.



SYI students visit sites connected to the Emmett Till story, including Graball Landing.
Photo credit: Von Gordon

The Institute is a ten-day program in which high school students learn about local history in the Mississippi Delta, civil rights history in particular, as well as economics and civic engagement. The goal of SYI is not only to introduce young people to history but also to develop leaders within the community. The organizers focus on intentionality and fostering a communal atmosphere so students are prepared to engage with difficult topics. In visiting various sites around the area, the students are invited to consider the history and how it impacts the present.

"SYI is built on empowerment," said Jay Rushing. "It's intended to introduce them to history while empowering them, showing the work has been done and giving them a framework to continue it." Since its inception, SYI has been involved with ETIC's work as participants examine the Till story, its role in the civil rights movement, and how histories shape communities and identity.

"To have young people in a safe space where they can question and indict history and not necessarily feel like they're doing anything wrong by doing such is something we don't take lightly," Benjamin Saulsberry said. "It's an honor to be trusted with young people and to work with a group of folks that have a really good track record of doing just that."

"It's always a special, almost sacred, time when we visit the sites memorializing Emmett Till in Tallahatchie County," said April Grayson, Director of Community & Capacity Building for the Alluvial Collective. "We're deeply grateful to the team at ETIC for helping make it such a meaningful experience, and the participants this year reflected in such thoughtful ways about how learning more about this history gives them the tools to see themselves as leaders and changemakers."

We're always ready to show groups the sites of the Till story. If you'd like to [book a tour](#), please visit our website.

BOOK A TOUR

Register for August 31st Emmett Till Commemoration

The third annual memorial service for Emmett Till will be held on August 31st, 2024 in the Mississippi Delta. The event will be hosted by the Emmett Till Interpretive Center in partnership with [We2Gether Creating Change](#), the [Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument](#), and the [Racial Reconciliation Task Force of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi](#).

The flier below includes the full program schedule. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by August 16th on [our Eventbrite page](#) so we know to expect you.

RSVP HERE

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Emmett Till Interpretive Center

We2gether Creating Change

RSVP by August 16 to join us for a commemoration event

Emmett Till Commemoration

Saturday, August 31, 2024

10 am Riverside Service
Glendora, MS (Graball Landing)
Car procession to barn near Drew, MS

11:30 am Service at barn site

12 pm Luncheon
Downtown Drew, MS

Scan for
details
and to
RSVP



Sponsored by
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Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument



More News

Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument Hiring Supervisory Park Ranger in Chicago

The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument is hiring a full-time Supervisory Park Ranger for the site in Chicago. Applications close July 11th.



[READ MORE](#)

Till National Monument Featured in AAA Explorer Magazine

The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument was featured in the July/August/September 2024 issue of *AAA Explorer*, Southern Members Edition. The piece covers some of the major events of the Till story and the role the Monument sites played. It also includes a quote from Benjamin Saulsberry, ETIC's Public Engagement and Museum Education Director.



Haunting Historical Site

A new national monument honors the memory of Emmett Till

BY LARRY BLEIBERG



On a lonely bend of Mississippi's Tallahatchie River, American history changed forever. Here, on an August day in 1955, searchers pulled the body of 14-year-old Emmett Till from the muddy water. A cotton gin fan weighing about 75 pounds had been tied around his neck with barbed wire.

The northwest Mississippi site, called Graball Landing, is part of a national monument unveiled in 2023 to honor the African American teen and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley. To bring attention to the injustice, Till's distraught but determined mother held a public viewing of his body prior to

the middle of the night 4 days later and was never seen alive again.

The monument's third location, Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ, lies more than 600 miles away, on Chicago's South Side, and preserves the site of Till's funeral.

Most visitors to the monument's Mississippi locations start at the Emmett Till Interpretive Center on Sumner's town square, where displays recall the tragic events and their aftermath. Tours are offered of the restored courthouse (pictured) across the street. Nearly 70 years after the trial, it looks as if the judge has just called a recess.

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