

EMMETT TILL INTERPRETIVE CENTER

RACIAL RECONCILIATION BEGINS BY TELLING THE TRUTH

A Note from Executive Director Patrick Weems

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to the Emmett Till Interpretive Center. Your support and shared dedication to truth, empathy, and justice mean more than ever as we continue this vital work together.

When confronted with the worst of humanity, Mamie Till-Mobley responded with profound courage, resilience, and grace. Rather than closing herself off, she made a choice that forever changed our nation: she showed the world her son's story, demanding that the truth be seen and remembered. Her strength in the face of unimaginable pain is a legacy that calls us to respond to challenges with our own acts of courage, no matter how small they may seem.

In honoring her legacy, we ask you to stand with us. Consider making a donation or sharing our mission with others, helping us continue the work that Mamie began—work rooted in healing, justice, and the dignity of all people.

With deep gratitude and resolve,

Patrick Weems
Executive Director
Emmett Till Interpretive Center

Till National Monument Designation Wins Award from National Trust for Historic Preservation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently announced the recipients for their 2024 National Preservation Awards, and the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument is among this year's winners. The National Trust partners with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to present the Historic Preservation Award for Federal Partnerships, which "honors a

project or program in which a federal agency and one or more non-federal partners, including tribes, have together achieved an exemplary preservation outcome.”

[The award announcement](#) names the Department of the Interior, the Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley Institute, and ETIC for their coalition leading the National Park Campaign. That effort culminated in President Biden designating the Till National Monument by executive order on July 25, 2023, on what would have been Emmett’s 82nd birthday.

We are grateful to the National Trust and the ACHP for their recognition of this work, and we are grateful to our partners who contributed to the success of the designation.



Photo credit: Pablo Correa

ETIC Staff Join Other Friends of National Parks in Yosemite National Park

Staff of the Emmett Till Interpretive Center and the Till National Monument Superintendent traveled to Yosemite National Park in California for three days of workshops and events October 27th-30th to learn about best practices for nonprofit organizations who partner to support National Park Service sites across the country. The event was organized by the [National Park Friends Alliance](#), of which ETIC is a member.

ETIC staff spent a day in the park learning about the educational programs for young people hosted by nonprofit organizations in Yosemite. We visited the brand new NatureBridge facilities and learned

about programs like [WildLink](#), which takes underserved youth backpacking through the wilderness for a week at a time.

“I think about our partnership with the National Park Service as being the conduit to do more to solidify the name of Emmett and Mamie Till-Mobley for generations to come,” said Jessie Jaynes-Diming, Special Projects Coordinator. “Yosemite and all the participants galvanized me to keep on pushing.”

The conference provides a chance to connect with other friends organizations, a unique opportunity when we are typically spread out throughout the country focusing on our own individual parks.



Staff from ETIC against the picturesque scenery of Yosemite National Park.

"I really appreciated being able to speak with partners of other historic sites, particularly in hearing about the programs at several of the Japanese internment camps that are now National Park Service sites," said Elliot Long, Chief Operations Officer. "It was powerful to hear about the role local high school students played in advocating for, restoring, and providing tours of the [Amache National Historic Site](#), a former internment camp in Colorado. Hearing about the youth programs at all of the parks, from historic sites to natural landscapes, helps spark thinking about the kinds of work we can do in Mississippi in partnership with the Till National Monument."

Dr. Daphne Chamberlain, Chief Program Officer, said, "As we look to the future of ETIC's youth engagement work and increasing opportunities to enrich the lives of young people in the local community and the Mississippi Delta region, it is my hope that we optimize our partnership with the National Park Service to not only educate youths on the Till story but also expose them to other National Parks so they can see the world more optimistically through a different lens."

ETIC was able to travel to Yosemite thanks to a grant from the National Park Foundation to build our organization's capacity and to plan how to better support the new Till National Monument by learning from other park partners.

ETIC Hosts Fall Book Walk for Children and First Responders

On October 28th, ETIC held the annual Fall Book Walk on the square and in the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument Visitor Center in Sumner, MS. Since this year's event coincided with National First Responders Day, local first responders helped to organize the event along with ETIC, the Tallahatchie County Alliance, the Tallahatchie Early Learning Alliance, and the West Tallahatchie Head Start Center. This year marked ETIC's third year of participation and the first time responders were involved.

Children from Head Start were invited to tour the town square to learn about the businesses in their community and to explore the National Monument, including the Tallahatchie County Courthouse. Sumner Chief of Police Maurice Brooks read a book, *The Halloween Granny* by Dana Martin and Juan Amadeo, to the assembled kids. The children each received a free book donated by Save the Children.

ETIC also sponsored lunch at the Sumner Grille for attending first responders.

"As someone that lives in this community, it was an honor to say thank you to some of the first responders that help our organization with a lot of the work that we do by providing security services, escort services, and safety for our community," said Venita Halbert, ETIC's Community Engagement Coordinator.

If you would like to support ETIC in our work with communities, [visit our donation page](#).



Participants from the 2024 Fall Book Walk.
Photos credit: Venita Halbert

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