



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Chesapeake & Ohio Canal
National Historical Park
1850 Dual Highway
Suite 100
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301 ● 739 ● 4200 phone
301 ● 739 ● 5275

C&O Canal National Historical Park News Release

Release Date: March 8, 2013, For Immediate Release

Contact: Ahna Wilson, 301-714-2236 / ahna_wilson@nps.gov

C&O Canal Invites Public Comment on Canal Quarters Interpretive Program

HAGERSTOWN, MD - The National Park Service will host public scoping meetings to discuss a proposed expansion of the Canal Quarters Interpretive Program. The meetings will be held from 7:00-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at the VFW Post 5633, 11511 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac, MD 20854 and 7:00-8:30 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 2013, at the Hancock Town Hall, 126 W High St., Hancock, MD 21750. The meetings will provide information on the potential program expansion and give the public an opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

The Canal Quarters program allows visitors an opportunity to stay overnight in a historic building for a unique interpretive experience, thereby elevating the park's interpretation of historic buildings and associated structures. The project expansion evaluates 44 historic buildings located throughout Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park for inclusion in the Canal Quarters program. In November 2009, the park and its official non-profit partner, the C&O Canal Trust, opened historic Lockhouses 6, 22, and 49 in a pilot project. In 2010, Lockhouses 10, 25, and 28 were also opened under the pilot project. For more information about the pilot project, please visit www.canalquarters.org.

"The C&O Canal is excited to be able to open these historic buildings to the public. The ability to allow visitors an overnight interpretive experience in a lockhouse is truly unique," said Superintendent Kevin Brandt. "The park would like to ask the public to help explore different ways we can expand this program to other historic canal buildings and other canal stories."

A 45-day public scoping period is being held to solicit public comments on this proposal. During this scoping period, the public is invited to identify any issues or concerns they might have with the proposed project so the National Park Service can appropriately consider them in the environmental assessment. Interested individuals may view project information and submit comments electronically at the National Park Service's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/choh>) or submit written comments to:

Superintendent
C&O Canal National Historical Park
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100
Hagerstown, MD 21740

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Public scoping comments are due by April 21, 2013. When the environmental assessment is developed, it will be available for public review for a 30-day period. Anyone wishing to be added to the park's mailing list for this or other announcements should indicate that in the response.

www.nps.gov

About Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. Preserving America's colorful Canal era and transportation history, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park is 184.5 of adventure. Originally, the C&O Canal was a lifeline for communities and businesses along the Potomac River as coal, lumber, grain and other agricultural products floated down the canal to market. Learn more at www.nps.gov/choh.