STORYWALKS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

New Jersey's oldest cities, towns, and neighborhoods have a wealth of stories and history connected to the American Revolution. With the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026, the time has come to tell them!

You can be among the first STORYWALKS guides certified to share this unique history with fellow residents and New Jersey visitors through the delivery of compelling story-based conversations in your own community.

This training opportunity is provided through Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area (Crossroads), which was founded to bring New Jersey's Revolutionary-era history to life for residents and visitors alike. Beyond the well-known battles and events, Crossroads focuses attention on the stories of the people who lived in New Jersey during the American Revolution, how the conflict affected their lives, and the difficult decisions they faced in wartime.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

After COVID-19, many historic sites faced shortages in volunteers and staff to deliver programming and offer tours for visitors. This downturn in capacity came at a time when the state began ramping up efforts to prepare for America's 250th anniversary of its Declaration of Independence in 2026 and the eight years associated with its Revolutionary War.

The STORYWALKS training program was created to bolster opportunities that share the important New Jersey stories associated with the American Revolution. More informed tour guides increase the breadth and depth of stories available for visitors and residents.

Why is the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area focusing on guide training?

Visitors desire immersive educational experiences. Interacting with an informed local guide offers a great way to provide these valued activities in New Jersey. Interested residents who participate in the program will also have the opportunity to learn skills that may transition to employment as a tour guide for hire, as staff at historic sites or attractions, or to create new businesses. Building the local tourism workforce capacity is an important goal for the region, as it hopes to attract more visitors in 2026 and beyond.

What are the benefits of being a certified STORYWALKS graduate?

The certified STORYWALK program recognizes individuals for their commitment to quality, research-based tours. The official program of Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area is marketed to companies, residents, and visitors with a seal of approval for the graduates and their fact-based content and tour delivery.

What will I learn in the STORYWALKS training program?

At the core of instruction is learning about the stories related to New Jersey and the Revolutionary War. Training will include how to research and verify historically-documented stories, uncover and present interesting facts that make the story relevant to visitors, develop presentation skills for optimum

interaction and engagement with your audience, and how to market your tours to grow participation. An outline of the on-site training agenda is available at the end of this document.

If I become a certified STORYWALKS guide, where can I conduct my tours?

Hopefully, you will offer tours in your local community, perhaps partner with a local site or community to conduct new tours for their visitors (members, residents), or offer your tour services to companies seeking qualified guides to conduct tours for groups and clients. The sky is the limit, and Crossroads will help market the graduates by promoting their availability to tour operators and historic sites.

Will the STORYWALKS program be offered again?

At this time, the only in-person training will be offered in Winter 2026. Subsequent training may be offered based on interest and funding.

Who is eligible to apply for the STORYWALKS training?

Any adult residing in New Jersey, age 18 or older, is eligible to apply. No formal tour guide training is required, although a love of history and a desire to learn about the Revolutionary War Era in New Jersey are important qualifications. Having a comfort level in speaking to the public is also recommended.

THE STORYWALKS TRAINING PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The STORYWALKS program offers instruction to interested adults (age 18 or older) on how to create, market, and deliver an informative and engaging place-based, story-focused tour.

The training requires a commitment of approximately 15 hours to complete. The program begins with an informational online webinar from 5:00 – 6:30 pm on Monday, December 1, 2025 for Trenton applicants and 5:00 – 6:30 pm on Thursday, December 4, for New Brunswick applicants.

An intensive one-day in-person workshop will be conducted in two locations from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm:

- **Trenton**: Saturday, January 24, 2026 – 120 East State Street, Trenton
- **New Brunswick**: January 31, 2026 – East Jersey Olde Town
  (Inclement Weather Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026)

Following the in-person training, each participant will receive up to two hours of customized consultation to produce their required assignments to receive a certificate of completion recognizing their status as a STORYWALKS guide. A one-hour evaluation will be scheduled via Zoom in late February 2026 for each participant to present their final assignment and complete a short quiz.

A short application is available for completion. Interested individuals are encouraged to complete their application and send it by email to info@revolutionarynj.org by **November 21, 2025**. Notifications will be made to the successful applicants by November 25/26, 2025.

If you have any questions regarding the application process, feel free to contact us at info@revolutionarynj.org