

La Creole Messenger

Summer 2021

A Destrehan Plantation Publication

Past Times Camp

More than 30 campers between the ages of 7 and 12 escaped the modern world at Past Times Camp at Destrehan Plantation. On June 21-25, 2021, campers went back more than 400 years to participate in Native American traditions, games, and culture. Moving forward in time, campers experienced the life of a child in the 1800s through chores (e.g., butter making, candle dipping, letter writing with a quill pen), old-time games, and the study of daily life for free and enslaved people in Louisiana.



Campers play Native-American games

They also visited with non-poisonous native Louisiana amphibians and reptiles, explored the Haydel-Miller Museum, and participated in a simulated archaeological dig. The week ended with a bang when Civil War reenactors presented several demonstrations and fired a cannon. The goals of the camp were to make learning history fun and encourage the children of today to become the preservationists of tomorrow.

QR Codes come to Destrehan Plantation

By focusing their Smartphone cameras on the QR codes displayed at the 1811

Slave Revolt Exhibit and in the Heritage Garden maintained by the Louisiana Master Gardeners, visitors to Destrehan Plantation may now hear short explanations and view videos related to these topics. The 1811 Slave Revolt QR code supplements the commentary that is provided several days per week by employees and volunteers in the museum.



QR Code for 1811 Slave Revolt Audio Tour

The Heritage Garden QR code provides access to one of the gardeners talking about the cushaw pumpkin/squash, cotton, and other plants on each row. A QR code works in the same way as a barcode at the supermarket. Every QR code consists of a number of black squares and dots which represent certain pieces of information. These QR codes enhance the tour experience for visitors at Destrehan Plantation.

Destrehan Plantation awarded grant

A grant received from the Norco Economic Development Fund (NEDF) through the Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF) allowed us to complete work on our new brick walking paths throughout the property. The paths complete a multi-year project enhancing the experience for all visitors. The path begins at our giftshop where

visitors enter the property to the plantation home, around the rose garden to the Miller-Haydel Museum, to the ramp of the outdoor kitchen and the ramp of the slave cabin and cooper's shop. We also added a 10 ft. wide brick path from the front of the house to the iron gates at River Road. Along with the existing elevator in the house, this will allow our visitors in wheelchairs and walkers to experience the entire tour and explore the self-guided museums throughout the grounds. We thank the NEDF and GNOF organizations for their generous grants to make these projects possible.



Pathway to Demonstration Area

Destrehan Plantation marks Sunday, September 19, 2021 as Locals' Day

From 9:30 am to 4:00 pm Louisiana residents can enter the grounds for free and take a tour at a discounted rate of \$12 for adults and \$7 for children ages 7-17. Children 6 and under are free.

Guests who spend \$30 or more in our giftshop receive complimentary mimosas. Southern Traditions will be on site selling gourmet snoballs, lemonade shake ups, crawfish, pulled pork and plain nachos. The event is pet friendly. Visitors must have their pet on a leash or in a carrier. Only service dogs are permitted on tour. For more information on Locals' Day, visit our website at www.destrehanplantation.org.



Dedicated to History

The River Road Historical Society is a small non-profit organization who owns and operates Destrehan Plantation. The mission of the River Road Historical Society is to preserve history and provide education on Destrehan Plantation. If you would like to become a Friend of Destrehan Plantation, please visit our website at <http://www.destrehanplantation.org>.

Built in 1787, Destrehan Plantation is a French Creole plantation and the oldest documented plantation in the lower Mississippi River Valley. The plantation is located on historic River Road less than 30 minutes from New Orleans and 10 minutes from the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. Please visit our website for more information at <http://www.destrehanplantation.org>.