



Virginia History Trails

B2B FAQs

Please remember that your entry on the app is just the starting point to promote your sites and organizations. Use the story within the app as a tool to promote all your other stories.

1. What is the 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution?

American Evolution commemorates the 400th anniversary of historical events that occurred in Virginia in 1619, which continue to influence us today.

2. What is the Virginia History Trails?

Virginia History Trails is a collection of historic destinations that tell the stories of the first 400 years of Virginia's dynamic history. It will promote tourism throughout all regions of the Commonwealth while inspiring, educating and stimulating awareness of Virginia's role in the creation of the United States. The Virginia History Trails is designed as a lasting legacy beyond the 2019 Commemoration, encouraging generations of Virginians and Americans to pursue a deeper understanding of our shared history.

3. Who established the Virginia History Trails?

The Virginia History Trails legacy project was developed through a series of roundtables and committee meetings to showcase Virginia's historical sites, to improve the accessibility to this information, and expand the Commemoration's statewide engagement.

4. How do the Virginia History Trails differ from existing tourism trails in the state?

The Virginia History Trails is a curated list of stories developed to inform modern day explorers on the 400 year arc of history from 1619 until today. Additionally, each of the trails help to promote locations that are linked to these historical events and reflect the 2019 Commemoration themes of democracy, diversity, and opportunity.

5. What is a “trail”?

A “trail” is a number of historic destinations grouped by subject that tell the story of Virginia’s rich history. With 20 trails containing over 400 stories, find the trail that both inspires and motivates you to start exploring! Learn how each trail represents a significant part of Virginian and American history:

- African American
- American Revolution
- Citizenship
- Civil Rights
- Civil War
- Conflicts
- Culture
- Education
- Entrepreneurship
- Exploration
- Immigration
- Innovation
- Military
- Preservation
- Presidents
- Religious Liberty
- Representative Government
- Resistance
- Virginia Indians
- Women

6. How were the sites/stories chosen and written?

Stories were chosen and written by the Library of Virginia and Virginia Humanities with close collaboration with the 2019 Commemoration team. The stories have been reviewed by the Commemoration’s historical council, key stakeholders, and sites for accuracy. Stories were selected and written based on the following criteria:

- Importance to Virginia/national history
- Support of the commemoration themes (Democracy, Diversity, Opportunity)
- Race/ethnicity/gender balance
- Statewide/regional/local coverage
- Story length of fewer than 600 characters
- Written to further both the education and tourism promotion mandate from the Commonwealth

7. How do I download the app?

Search “Virginia History Trails” in the App Store and Google Play to download the app for free!

8. Do visitors have to use the app to tour the sites?

No, the app just helps visitors navigate to these historic sites. Users will be directed to the site’s web page for more information on planning their visit.

9. Why are some of the sites just road signs/not accessible to the public?

Virginia’s landscape has changed a lot in the past 400 years, and not all of its historically notable locations still exist . These stories still need to be told, so we invite users to learn more, even if they cannot visit the physical location.

10. Why are some historic markers designated as Official Virginia History Trail sites while others are not?

Thirty-eight stories on the app are represented by historic highways markers. These markers received official signage from VDOT to increase visibility as app users explore Virginia’s history. Other stories on the app are represented by historical sites and associations, cultural organizations, and buildings.

11. Will all sites be receiving new signage?

Yes. All trail sites open to the public received updated signage at the beginning of the Commemorative year. If you have any questions or concerns about this signage, please contact Kristin Ritchey at kristin.ritchey@jyf.virginia.gov

12. How will the app be promoted?

The Virginia History Trails will be featured in commemoration promotional materials and statewide advertising campaigns. Additionally, interested sites will be provided with marketing materials to promote their involvement.

13. How can I promote the app?

Make use of the Marketing Kit provided by the American Evolution team. Please contact americanevolutionmarketing@jyf.virginia.gov with specific questions.

14. Why should my site or community be involved?

The Virginia History Trails app will bring awareness of the rich history of Virginia and your site to tourists and will also be a key orientation and wayfinding tool during their visit.

15. Can I make a change to my site's entry?

If you have any questions or concerns about your site's entry, please contact Kristin Ritchey at digitaltrail2019@jyf.virginia.gov. Please note that the site on the app is a starting point

16. Why isn't my site on the Virginia History Trails? Can I add my site to the Virginia History Trails?

With over 400 years of history, it's impossible to include all of the Commonwealth's noteworthy stories. We fully acknowledge that we may have left off some noteworthy sites and stories, and rest assured that this is not because we don't see their value. The nature of this project necessitated us setting some limits based on the suggestion of the historian team. Should you feel that a site should be included, please contact Kristin Ritchey at digitaltrail2019@jyf.virginia.gov.

17. My site is not on the Virginia History Trails, but I still want to share how my site influences Virginia's history. What should I do?

Share your story on American Evolution Stories, the Commemoration's digital storytelling platform. This site contains all of the stories within the Virginia History Trails app, as well as additional information about the people, places, and objects that influenced Virginia. Visit aestories.com for more information.

18. My site is on the Virginia History Trails, but I never received any notification. Why not?

Our team did their best to contact every site, sometimes multiple times by email, mail and phone. We apologize if you didn't receive a notification. We would love to partner with you moving forward. Please reach out to Kristin Ritchey at digitaltrail2019@jyf.virginia.gov for more information on your site's entry and how to get involved.

19. I contributed changes to my story but I don't see them represented.

Virginia's history is deeply nuanced, sometimes making it difficult to capture in only 600 characters. If you feel that the story currently in the app is not representative of your site, however, please reach out to Kristin Ritchey at digitaltrail2019@jyf.virginia.gov.

20. I see a historical inaccuracy! What do I do?

Send an email to Kristin Ritchey at digitaltrail2019@jyf.virginia.gov with any questions about story content.

21. Why are some sites designated as Signature Partners?

Signature Partners are institutions involved with more than one aspect or program of the 2019 Commemoration.

22. How can I learn more or get more involved?

We love developing close partnerships with our Trail sites! All questions can be sent to Kristin Ritchey at digitaltrail2019@jyf.virginia.gov. We look forward to partnering with you!

20. Are there other uses for the Trails besides tourism?

Yes! Educators, parents, and students are encouraged to utilize the app as a resource for for school projects and assignments relating to Virginia history.

Join us on the the Virginia History Trails!