



## Thames River Heritage Park

# DOCENT ACADEMY

**History lovers,  
you are in for a treat!**

*Join the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cohort!*

10-week highly-acclaimed  
local history program  
for current and prospective volunteers

**Lively Informative Talks and  
Presentations**

**Tours of Heritage Sites**

See the 10-week schedule on back.

Every Wednesday, 9 AM–12:30 PM

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 – May 1, 2024

Make-Up Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024

[More Information / Registration](#)

[ThamesRiverHeritagePark.org/Docent-Academy](https://ThamesRiverHeritagePark.org/Docent-Academy)

Funding is pending for scholarship for  
Groton & New London residents.

A collaborative program by the  
heritage sites that comprise

**Thames River  
Heritage Park**

ONE RIVER. A THOUSAND STORIES.

# Docent Academy Tentative Schedule

## Week 1

**Welcome / Park Overview**  
**Mohegan Life on the Thames**  
Fort Trumbull State Park  
Conference Center\*

## Week 2

**Colonial Life on the Thames**  
Shaw Mansion\*, Hempsted Houses  
Old Town Mill, Nathan Hale School House

## Week 3

**American Revolution on the Thames**  
Bill Memorial Library\*, Ebenezer Avery House  
Fort Griswold Battlefield Museum State Park

## Week 4

**Whaling Industry on the Thames**  
**The Amistad Story**  
Fort Trumbull Conference Center \*  
NL Custom House

## Week 5

**The Immigration Story**  
**Engaging Your Audience**  
Avery-Copp House Museum\*

## Week 6

**The Gilded Age and Fine Arts on the Thames**  
**Learning Styles**  
Lyman Allyn Art Museum\*  
Monte Cristo Cottage, Pequot Chapel

## Week 7

**Military on the Thames**  
Submarine Force and Nautilus Museums\*

## Week 8

**The Visitor Experience**  
**New London Black Heritage Trail**  
Fort Trumbull Conference Center \*  
NL Black Heritage Trail

## Week 9

**Pulitzer Playwright, Performing Arts and Culture  
on the Thames**  
Garde Arts Center\*

## Week 10

**Heritage Partner Site Fair**  
**Graduation & Commissioning**  
Fort Trumbull Conference Center\*

\* The day starts here.

## **Docent Academy**

### **2023 Testimonials**

**I anticipated an overview and introductory information on the many sites involved in the TRHP. What the Docent Academy actually offered far exceeded my expectations in both the depth and quality of presentations. It is indeed a protector of heritage.**

**I was honored to be selected for the 2023 TRHP Docent Academy. Our diverse group grew into a unified class as we rotated through the sites- all such treasures, each with its own intriguing story.**

**I thoroughly enjoyed the program and looked forward to each week's session. While the site visits and presentations varied in quality, each one offered a positive learning opportunity.**

**This course is a must for anyone being educated in the region. The info it provides is enough to inspire further research. The organizers were diligent and their outcomes coherent.**

**I fully benefited from this program. I have been telling family and friends about sites to visit this summer. I had my first volunteer experience at the Garde and this program helped me with the knowledge and confidence I needed to do this.**

**The Docent Academy was well worth my time. My interest in The Thames River Heritage Park and collaborating partners was heightened. I am eager to share this knowledge with others.**

**Thames River Heritage Park's Docent Academy exceeded my expectations, both in terms of historical depth and site exposure. I learned so much, and I am looking forward to continuing my education through volunteer and docent experiences.**

**The knowledge shared about the region's past helps me to better comprehend the more recent and current times.**

**The course set up me to participate in the telling and advancement of the local history through volunteer opportunities at one or two heritage sites.**

**As I focus on volunteering at a specific site or two, staying aware of activities and learning other about other sites in Thames River Heritage Park will be helpful in enhancing the work at each our specific volunteer sites.**

**I have a passion about our area that I did not have before and I now act as an ambassador for the sites in Thames River Heritage Park whenever and wherever I have the opportunity.  
I have found my niche in volunteering.**