

# CERTIFICATION PROGRAM National Association for Interpretation

## **Certified Interpretive Guide Training**

February 24, 25, 26 and  
March 1, 2010

Green Spring Gardens  
Alexandria, VA



Visitors remember their park experiences when a guide inspires them during a program or tour. You can learn basic interpretive philosophy and techniques to develop and lead memorable tours and programs during this 4-day training to become a Certified Interpretive Guide.

### **What:**

The National Association for Interpretation (NAI) offers a professional certification program to recognize individuals who exhibit knowledge and skills necessary to assure quality interpretive services to all audiences. The Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) program is one level in that program. (Visit the NAI website certification page for more information about other certification levels: [http://www.interpnet.com/certification/cert\\_atglance.shtml](http://www.interpnet.com/certification/cert_atglance.shtml).)

**Who Should Attend:** Our 15 registrants may include

- ✓ Seasonal naturalist or historians
- ✓ Newly hired full-time interpreters
- ✓ Front-line park staff who lack experience or educational background in interpretation

**When:** Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, February 24, 25 and 26 plus Monday, March 1, 8:30am-5:00pm each day.

**Where:** Green Spring Gardens – Horticulture Center

\$140/person, RMD staff supported by training funds. Includes course materials

**Cost:** (\$10), certification fee (\$80) and NAI basic membership fee (\$50). Participants from outside the Park Authority must also pay a \$220 instructor fee.

### **How to Register:**

Discuss this opportunity with your supervisor. Make sure that your supervisor understands that you will be away from the site for four full days. Please note: the division funding pays the training fees, but sites/sections are responsible for paying any wages earned during the four days.

Following your discussion, prepare two paragraphs describing why you want to take the CIG course and how you expect to use the training. Forward this information to Mary Olien ([mary.oliem@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mary.oliem@fairfaxcounty.gov)) by February 5, 2010.

**What to Expect:**

- ✓ 32 hours of engaging, hands-on instruction on the history, definition, and principles of interpretation;
- ✓ Tips to make your programs purposeful, enjoyable, relevant, organized and thematic;
- ✓ An opportunity to develop your presentation and communication skills;
- ✓ "How-to" for incorporating tangible objects and intangible ideas into your programs;
- ✓ Complete certification requirements (open book exam, program outline, 10-minute presentation) and all materials (workbook and CIG course textbook)
- ✓ Network with other FCPA interpreters.

**Other Information:**

Participation required all 4 days. Most participants use evening hours to complete course requirements.

Think about ideas for your 10-minute presentation.

Bring your own or purchase food locally. Refrigerator and microwave are available.

**Certification Library**

NAI has selected six books to build your interpretive reference library. They are the basis for completing the open-book exam. You will use them throughout the workshop.

- ✓ *Environmental Interpretation: A Practical Guide for People with Big Ideas and Small Budgets* by Sam Ham
- ✓ *Interpretation for the 21st Century* by Beck and Cable
- ✓ *Interpretation of Natural and Cultural Resources* by Knudsen
- ✓ *Interpreting for Park Visitors* by Bill Lewis
- ✓ *Interpreting Our Heritage* by Freeman Tilden
- ✓ *Sharing Nature with Children* by Joseph Cornell

Note: There is a lot of material to absorb. Advanced reading of the books is highly recommended; it will leave you more time to focus on class activities and evening assignments. All of these books are available for loan from the RMD library