



MATPRA

MID-ATLANTIC TOURISM PUBLIC RELATIONS ALLIANCE

For Immediate Release

Classroom lessons come to life throughout the Mid-Atlantic

(Mid-Atlantic Region, October 10, 2019) — With the children back in school, this is the perfect time to extend their educational experiences and take learning outside the classroom. From sites where America's history unfolded, to outdoor opportunities where people can connect to the environment, the Mid-Atlantic is filled with ways to bring those textbook lessons to life. For more information on any of the following, contact the destination marketing organization listed below. For general information on the Mid-Atlantic, visit MATPRA.org.

DELAWARE

Greater Wilmington

Located on Wilmington's family-friendly Riverwalk, adjacent to the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge, DuPont Environmental Education Center offers visitors access to 212 acres of freshwater marsh, is a trailhead to the JAM trail connecting Wilmington to Historic New Castle and is home to birds and animals, including American Bald Eagles. *Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau, Sarah Willoughby, VisitWilmingtonDE.com, swilloughby@visitwilmingtonde.com*

Delaware's Quaint Villages

Delaware's Quaint Villages is home to many nature and educational centers, perfect for the whole family to learn! Take a trip to DuPont Nature Center and learn about the Delaware Bay's natural history and ecology or head to Killens Pond State Park's Nature Center to see native reptiles and amphibians overlooking a 66-acre millpond. *Kent County Tourism, Danielle Jonigan, VisitDelawareVillages.com, djonigan@visitdelawarevillages.com*

MARYLAND

Maryland (State of)

Before heading back to school, take a trip along one of Maryland's Scenic Byways where everyone will learn something new. From the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway to the Star-Spangled Banner Byway, explore fun and educational attractions along the way, plus excellent lodging and dining. *Maryland Office of Tourism, Matthew Scales, VisitMaryland.org, msscales@visitmaryland.org*

Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

Sailing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding and canoeing options abound in and around Annapolis. Land lovers can hike miles of trails in city, county and state parks, and cycling enthusiasts can workout on the 13.3-mile Baltimore and Annapolis Trail. It connects to another 12.5-mile trail circling BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport. *Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, Susan Seifried, VisitAnnapolis.org, sseifried@visitannapolis.org*

Baltimore

Baltimore is full of educational and inspiring attractions— the best way to learn about the past is to visit historical places! Explore Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, the location of the War of 1812, see “on duty” guards demonstrating muskets and unfurl a full-sized replica of the Star-Spangled Banner. *Visit Baltimore, Abigail Vitaliano, Baltimore.org, avitaliano@baltimore.org*

Calvert County

In Calvert County, Maryland, Solomons Island Heritage Tours let families experience life on the water first hand in a unique and fun way on a commercial fishing vessel. The Calvert Marine Museum boasts rich maritime history, fossils and live marine life and Calvert offers public beaches on the Chesapeake Bay. *Calvert County Department of Economic Development, Hilary Dailey, ChooseCalvert.com, hilary.dailey@calvertcountymd.gov*

Charles County

An impressive mecca for birding, kayaking, hiking, camping, cycling, fishing, photography, shopping and fabulous seafood, you never know what you might find in Charles County. Explore the newly designated national marine sanctuary of Mallows Bay, largest ship graveyard in the Western hemisphere or bike Indian Head Rail Trail. *Charles County Government, Department of Recreation, Parks, & Tourism, Kellie Hinkle, ExploreCharlesCounty.com, hinklek@charlescountymd.gov*

Frederick County

Discover the story of the first American-born Saint at the Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. A stunning basilica, fascinating museum and guided tours of her historic home tell a story of true compassion. *Visit Frederick, Melissa Joseph Muntz, VisitFrederick.org, mmuntz@fredco-md.net*

Hagerstown - Washington County

Washington County is rich in Civil War history and much more! From the stretch of National Road where macadam was first used to the last remaining original stone fort in America and the place where John Brown organized his Harpers Ferry raid, there's no shortage of unique history and learning. *Visit Hagerstown, Betsy DeVore, VisitHagerstown.com, betsy@visithagerstown.com*

Harford County

Fawn View Farm is a family farm offering educational farm tours for large groups. Participants get a first-hand look at the day-to-day operation of a working dairy farm with a mix of guided tour and hands-on activity. Call in advance and plan to experience the wonderful world of farming. *Visit Harford, Mindy Schneider, VisitHarford.com, mindy@visitharford.com*

Queen Anne's County

Marvel at the county's rise from colonial past, as history can be relived as the county is home to 20 well preserved sites that are open for touring on 1st Saturdays April – November. Explore the Chesapeake Heritage Center's museum (open daily) which highlights the changing Chesapeake Bay, maritime industry, agriculture & so much more.. *Queen Anne's County Office of Tourism, Ashley Chenault, VisitQueenAnnes.com, achenault@gac.org*

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania (Commonwealth of)

Pennsylvania is home to children's museums for hands-on learning in cities across the state including Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Erie. Families can also get a history lesson in Gettysburg and Valley Forge, get creative at the Crayola Experience in Easton and inventive with ice cream flavors at the Turkey Hill Experience. *Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Lisa Zahn, VisitPA.com, lisa.zahn@tierneyagency.com*

Central Pennsylvania

Columbus never made it to North America...but his family's treasures did...to Boalsburg, Pennsylvania. The Boal Estate has been the Boal family home for over 200 years and tells the story of America through eight generations of one family. Original furnishings, artwork and artifacts. The Columbus Chapel was brought to Boalsburg in 1909. *Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau, Stoddard, VisitPennState.org, edwards@visitpennstate.org*

Endless Mountains

Streams and woodland trails aren't just window dressing in the Endless Mountains, they're here to play in and learn in! Keystone College's Woodlands Campus includes a network of trails leading to the suspension bridge, biology pond and more. This student resource is the perfect area for scientific and environmental studies. *Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher, EndlessMountains.org, sales@endlessmountains.org*

Lehigh Valley

Learn about industries that shaped America at two Smithsonian affiliate institutions in Lehigh Valley. The National Museum of Industrial History examines steam engines, the steel industry and more. The National Canal Museum takes you back in time to when mule-drawn canal boats were integral to the anthracite industry. *Discover Lehigh Valley, Kaitie Burger, DiscoverLehighValley.com, kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com*

Montgomery County

Montgomery County is home to a plethora of amazing attractions, unique events and incredible opportunities. Home to both the King of Prussia Mall and Valley Forge National Historical Park, minutes from Philadelphia, and hosting 76 world-class full-service hotels, Montco has everything you need to make it a weekend you won't forget. *Visit Montgomery, Emily Keel, valleyforge.org, keel@valleyforge.org*

Philadelphia

Philadelphia bursts with fun for children of any age. Kids can get their pizza fix at the country's largest pizza memorabilia collection (Pizza Brain), enjoy hands-on fun at the Please Touch Museum®, play mini golf at Franklin Square and enjoy ice cream at The Franklin Fountain. *Visit Philadelphia, Daniel Davis, VisitPhilly.com, daniel@visitphilly.com*

Potter County - Tioga County

The Pennsylvania Lumber Museum educates the public about the Commonwealth's rich lumbering history and the management and recreational use of its forests. Students are encouraged to explore the museum's working historic saw mill, recreated lumber camp, exhibits, public programs and collections to discover the relevance of history in their lives. *Visit Potter-Tioga, Morgan Christopher, VisitPotterTioga.com, morgan@visitpottertioga.com*

Reading, Berks County

Step back in time at one of the finest remaining 19th century massive iron plantations - Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site. With museum tours, theater programs and individual explorations, learn how this historic site in Pennsylvania's Americana Region helped transform

the United States into an industrial giant. *Pennsylvania's Americana Region, Lisa Haggerty, VisitPaAmericana.com, lisa@visitpaamericana.com*

VIRGINIA

Virginia (Commonwealth of)

Virginia is an American history icon. Learn about the great leaders of our country at one of eight estates of former U.S. Presidents, visit the hallowed grounds of Virginia battlefields and heritage sites, tour the fascinating destinations along the Historic Triangle and travel the Crooked Road for a musical history experience. *Virginia Tourism Corporation, Andrew Cothorn, virginia.org, acothern@virginia.org*

Alexandria

Harry Potter fans of all ages will love the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum located in historic Old Town Alexandria. Step back in time to a pharmacy exactly as it was when it closed in 1933. See real-life ingredients mentioned in the Harry Potter books and movies, including dragon's blood. *Visit Alexandria, Leah Spellman, APR, VisitAlexandriaVA.com, lsPELLMAN@VisitAlexVA.com*

Fairfax County

In Fairfax County, kids will be so busy having fun that they won't even realize they're learning: visit two Founding Fathers' homes, meet baby animals at a working historical dairy farm, see a real-life space shuttle at a Smithsonian museum or attend a Jr. Ranger course at a National Park. *Visit Fairfax, Ali Morris, FXVA.com, amorris@fxva.com*

Harrisonburg

Take a trip to space and imagine what it would be like to explore an exoplanet, a planet outside our own solar system that could possibly support life. Visitors to the John C. Wells Planetarium can get a good idea of what they would see on such a journey. *Harrisonburg Tourism & Visitor Services, Jessica Williams, VisitHarrisonburgVA.com, jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov*

Loudoun

Loudoun's rich agricultural history comes to life at Great Country Farms. For 20+ years, the farm has offered experiences that range from how produce is grown to the importance of pollinators like honeybees and the life cycle of butterflies. While here, enjoy wagon rides, the country store and farm animals. Visit Loudoun, Jennifer Sigal, visitloudoun.org, sigal@visitloudoun.org

Prince William County

Families can see, hear, smell and even taste history while touring Ben Lomond Historic Site. This immersive experience allows families to enjoy learning about Civil War history ranging

from medicine and slavery to farming all while making incredible memories too. *Prince William County Office of Tourism, Nicole Warner, VisitPWC.com, nwarner@pwcgov.org*

Richmond

Take an Upper River Rafting Trip on the James River with Riverside Outfitters (good for children 5 and up). For families who love to camp: Sharp's Island, an entire private island on the river, is available to rent for weekend camping adventures and fun. *Richmond Region Tourism, Meghan Gearino, VisitRichmondVa.com, mgearino@visitrichmondva.com*

About the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance

The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. The group serves travel journalists by creating a regional resource that ignores geographical boundaries to better promote common threads, offering story ideas about the Mid-Atlantic region as a whole. For more information, visit MATPRA.org.
