



KEY TALKING POINTS ABOUT THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WHY IS THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY IMPORTANT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?

The Society is the state's memory and premier storyteller. Because it is among the nation's oldest, largest, most active state historical societies with world-class collections, the Society is a trusted source of historical information. The Society is proud to serve a critical role as the preservers and transmitters of cultural heritage from generation to generation. It desires to enrich and transform lives through providing unparalleled access to history.

KEY POINTS TO SHARE:

- The Society's programs, collections, and archives as well as its 12 historic sites and museums inform and entertain adults and challenge young people to think critically about their place in history. The Society also promotes Wisconsin tourism, and its historic preservation program reinvigorates neighborhoods.
- The Society is a unique and entrepreneurial state agency with just 133 employees (with only 100 positions supported by state tax dollars). Gifts, grants and earned income are responsible for 40% (\$9.2 million per year) of its \$24 million annual budget.
- Its fundraising partner, the Wisconsin Historical Foundation, raises over \$4 million annually in direct support for the Society's programs and initiatives.
- Each year the Society has over 250 volunteers, more than any other state agency. Their work expands the efforts of permanent employees, limited term employees and seasonal employees.
- The Society advises and supports the work of **395 affiliated local historical societies, including groups in your district!**
- The Society provides history-related programs throughout the state in public libraries, historical societies, and other local venues.
- Thousands of Wisconsin students visit the Wisconsin Historical Museum and other historic sites annually. The Society also leads 10,000 students every year from all over Wisconsin in the National History Day program.