

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
PRESS RELEASE**

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**M-NCPPC OFFERS TRAINING FOR NEW
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD TRAIL GUIDES**

SILVER SPRING, MD - The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's historic preservation staff is inviting outgoing history buffs to participate in a training session for new guides on the Underground Railroad Experience Trail in Sandy Spring, Maryland, on Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Brookeville Academy at 5 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland, 20833.

At the session, trainees will learn to lead groups on a simulated Underground Railroad experience on a 1 ½ mile trail (and 1 ½ mile back) through fields and woods and across streams to the Sandy Spring. They will learn various techniques that people escaping slavery would have used to elude pursuers, find water and food, and find their way.

“This is a great way to learn about the history of the Underground Railroad in Montgomery County and in the U.S.,” said M-NCPPC historian Susan Soderberg. “You’re cordially invited to hear fascinating true stories of peril, daring escapes and heartbreaking captures, then share those stories with others.”

Underground Railroad Experience Trail training is open to anyone age 14 or older who is interested in African American history. After completing the training, guides will be asked to participate in an actual hike on the trail either Saturday, March 25 at 10 a.m. or Saturday, April 22 at 9 a.m. Trail guides are asked to commit to leading at least four two-hour hikes per year.

To register in advance, those interested may call 301-563-3405.

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