



Little Rock Central High School

On September 25, 1957, Little Rock's Central High School became a crucial battleground in the struggle for civil rights. The nation sat transfixed as nine African-American students entered the previously all-white school under federal troop escort. The events brought worldwide attention as Little Rock came to symbolize the federal government's commitment to eliminating segregation in education.

Join park rangers at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site as they explore civil rights and race relations then and now at this still-operating high school. These programs are only available during the academic year and by reservation.

Programs Available:

The Ruby Bridges Project K-4

This program tells the story of courage and determination embodied in a six-year-old African-American child who was the first to desegregate a New Orleans, Louisiana, elementary school under federal marshal escort. Her story is one that younger elementary students can connect to in the subject areas of right/wrong, fair/not fair, courage, character development, and determination. Using *The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles (Scholastic Press), staff from the National Park Service read the book for students from the steps of the historic high school and then facilitate a discussion of the book and its themes. A lesson plan for further activities is also available.

Little Rock Central High School and Race Relations in the 21st Century 9-12

Interaction between students is an important component of educational programs at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site. Open dialogue about race relations and civil rights issues that dominate the 21st century, as well as those relating to the Civil Rights Movement and its stories throughout American history are important to helping students to become productive and pro-active citizens of this country.

This long distance learning opportunity brings together high school students to learn more about grassroots activism in the United States (specifically embodied in the actions of the Little Rock Nine in 1957). Park rangers will take students on a walking tour of Little Rock Central High School. Following the tour, students from different parts of the country will gather for a discussion about which civil rights or grassroots causes are important to the students in this country, how they will participate, and how they will help bring about this change.



Elizabeth Eckford waits for a bus after being denied admittance to Central High School, September 4, 1957. Photo by Will Counts.

Curriculum Standards for Programs:

US History Standards, NCSS:

(grades K-4) NCSS-USH.K-4.1, NSS-USH.K-4.2
 (grades 5-12) NSS-USH.5-12.9, NSS-USH.9-12.10

US Civics and Government, NCSS:

(grades K-4) NSS-C.K-4.1, NSS-C.K-4.2, NSS-C.K-4.3,
 NSS-C.K-4.5
 (grades 5-8) NSS-C.5-8.1, NSS-C.5-8.2, NSS-C.5-8.3,
 NSS-C.5-8.5 (grades 9-12) NSS-C.9-12.1, NSS-C.9-12.2,
 NSS-C.9-12.3,
 NSS-C.9-12.5.

Arkansas History Frameworks (Revised 2002):

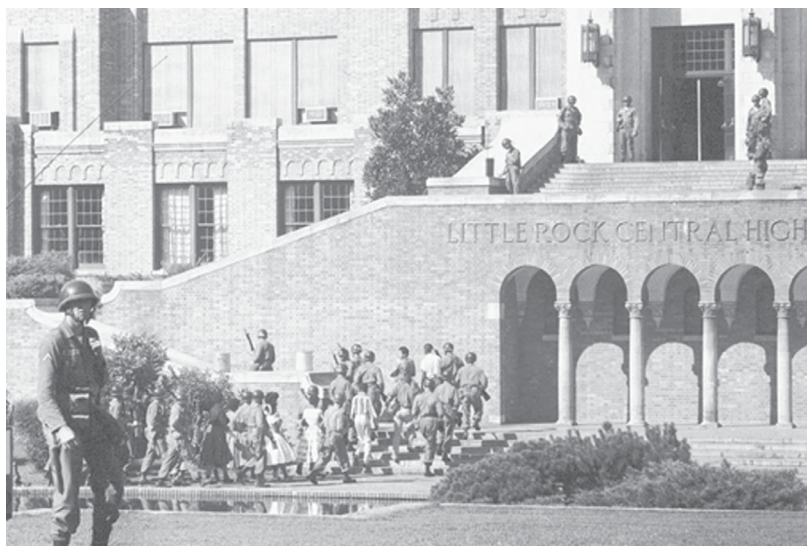
(grades K-5) TCCI.1, TCCI.2, TCCI.3, TCC2.2, TCC2.3, TCC2.4, PPEI.2, PPEI.3, PPE2.6,
 PAGI.1, PAGI.4, SSPSI.1, SSPSI.3, SSPSI.4 (grades 5-8) TCCI.3, TCCI.4, TCC2.3, PPEI.2,
 PAGI.1, PAGI.2, PAGI.3, PAGI.4, SSPSI.1, SSPSI.3, SSPSI.4
 (grades 9-12) TCCI.1, TCCI.2, TCCI.3, TCCI.4, TCC2.2, TCC2.3, PPEI.1, PPEI.2, PAG4.1,
 PAG4.2, PAG4.3, PAG4.4, SSPSI.1, SSPSI.2, SSPSI.3, SSPSI.4, SSPSI.5, SSPSI.6.

Arkansas Civics Frameworks:

I.2, I.3, I.4, I.5, 2.1, 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.3, 5.1, 5.3, 6.2.

US Language Arts Standards:

NL-ENG.K-12.1, NL-ENG.K-12.2, NL-ENGL.K-12.3, NL-ENG.K-12.4, NL-ENG.K-12.5,
 NL-ENG.K-12.6, NL-ENG.K-12.7, NL-ENG.K-12.9, NL-ENG.K-12.11, NL-ENG.K-12.12.



"Little Rock Nine" are escorted into Central High by U.S. Army troops, September 25, 1957. Photo by Will Counts.