



**Welcome to the
Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area
Partnership Team!**

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) welcomes you as a partner in working toward a heritage area that is responsive to the needs of our region and preserving our shared heritage. Working together, we can create a strong heritage area that provides many benefits.

Freedom's Frontier, established in 2009, began as a grassroots effort through the work of people just like you, who were concerned about our landscape and understood that we have an important nationally significant story to share about the struggles over freedom on the frontier. This struggle that shaped our nation's history remains relevant even today.

Please take some time to look through this information packet and familiarize yourself with the heritage area program and how you can become involved in this dynamic and important effort. Please let us know how Freedom's Frontier and our resources can assist you in achieving your sites goals. More information can be found at our website: FreedomsFrontier.org

We appreciate your interest and involvement in Freedom's Frontier and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucinda J. Adams".

Lucinda Adams

Freedom's Frontier NHA Executive Director



The Struggles for Freedom on the Missouri/Kansas Border

Extraordinary events in the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) forever changed America. In the nineteenth century, the nation turned its eyes to the Missouri / Kansas border, where peoples with diverse definitions of freedom collided, inciting and fueling the Civil War. The impact of these events is forever woven into the nation's fabric.

Shaping the Frontier:

For the half million pioneers who traveled on the Santa Fe, California, Mormon, and Oregon Trials, the Missouri/Kansas border was the jumping off point. In this place where river travel ended, traders, miners, and emigrants purchased provisions and prepared for long overland treks. As they traveled west, many began to see the "permanent" Indian frontier beyond Missouri's western border as an obstacle to Manifest Destiny.

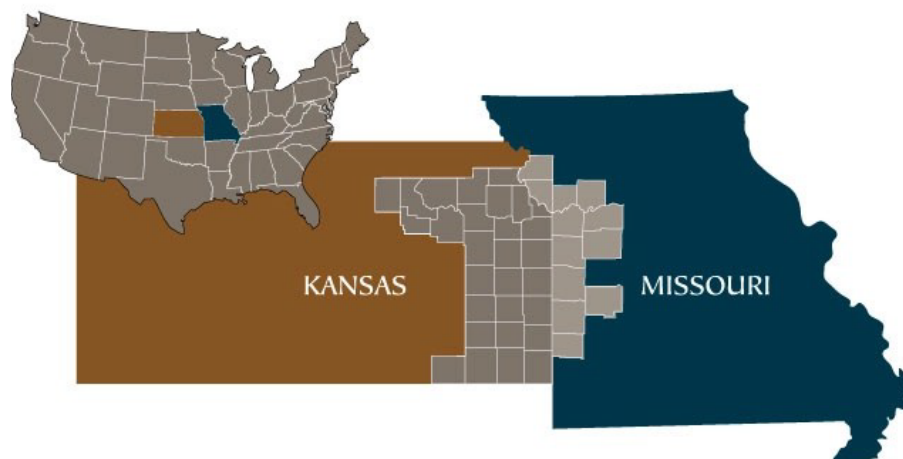
Missouri/Kansas Border War:

When Kansas was opened for settlement in 1854, a border war ensued, capturing the nation's attention. The Kansas-Nebraska Act nullified the uneasy balance established by the Missouri Compromise and left the territory's future slave status in the hands of settlers. The stakes were high for both sides. The violence of the Missouri/Kansas Border War ushered in the Civil War, consumed the region in bloody conflict through war's end, and devastated communities on both sides of the border.

Enduring Struggles for Freedom:

The nation's struggle for freedom did not end with the Civil War. Though the war eliminated clashes over geography, efforts to break down society's barriers continue. Since the Civil War, this place has inspired national policies and ongoing efforts to secure equal freedoms for all Americans.

Freedom's Frontier provides new opportunities for visitors and residents to explore the evolving ideal and fundamental American value of FREEDOM.



FREEDOM'S FRONTIER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA COUNTIES

KANSAS: Allen • Anderson • Atchison • Bourbon • Chautauqua • Cherokee • Clay • Coffey • Crawford • Douglas • Franklin • Geary • Jackson • Jefferson • Johnson • Labette • Leavenworth • Linn • Miami • Montgomery • Neosho • Osage • Pottawatomie • Riley • Shawnee • Wabunsee • Wilson • Woodson • Wyandotte

MISSOURI: Barton • Bates • Buchanan • Cass • Clay • Jackson • Johnson • Lafayette • Platte • Ray • St. Clair • Vernon



Partner Benefits

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

Collective Wisdom: Connect to historic sites, museums, tourism organizations in 41-county region to learn from one another

Interpretive Grants: \$500 - \$3,000 grants for projects that interpret the themes of Freedom's Frontier: Settling the Frontier, Border War, Enduring Struggle for Freedom

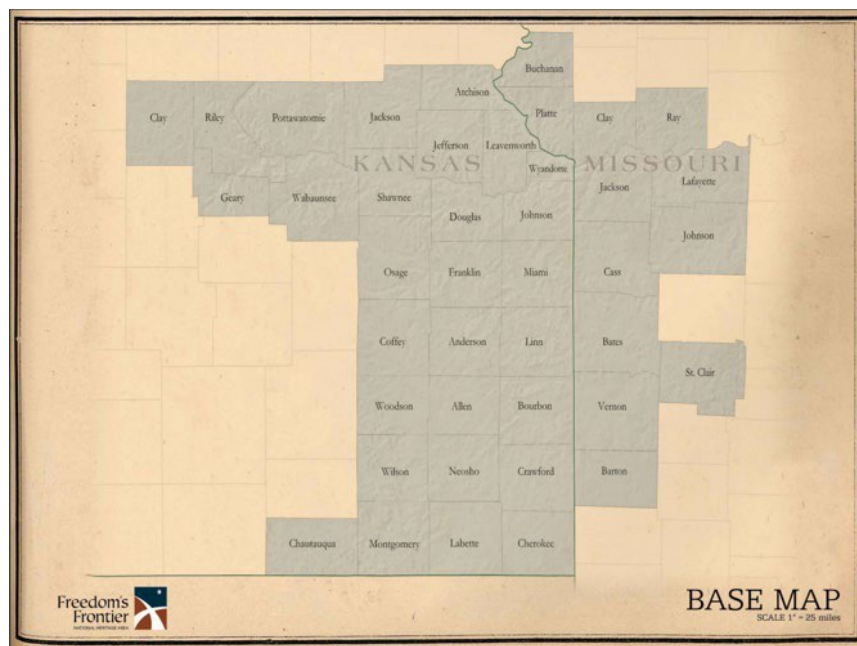
Workshops: Free or low-cost workshops to help museums and partners sites better tell their piece of the Freedom's Frontier story

Marketing: Cooperative advertising opportunities and marketing through the website and printed material of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

Signage: Participate with Freedom's Frontier in establishing branded heritage tourism signage in 41-county region

Technical Assistance: Consult with staff for suggestions on how to improve site interpretation, educational programs, marketing, operations, etc.

Other Opportunities: Partner with Freedom's Frontier and other historic sites and museums as opportunities arise to promote and interpret our region's important history.





PARTNER PLEDGE

As a Partner in the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA), the undersigned dedicates himself/herself to join other partners in supporting the region's vision, mission and guiding principles. To uphold the integrity and purpose of the organization, the undersigned pledges to work on behalf of the common good of the region and make decisions that validate the intended vision, mission and principles of FFNHA.

Vision

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area is an internationally recognized region in western Missouri and eastern Kansas. The heritage area shares its authentic and honestly interpreted stories with residents and visitors who add to the economic vitality of the region. Freedom's Frontier respects multiple views of freedom and promotes the region's contributions to the American story.

Mission

We tell the stories of the struggles for freedom in our region and their lasting impact on our nation.

Guiding Principles

1. We will be tolerant and respectful diverse stories from multiple perspectives.
2. We will respect property rights.
3. We will focus on authentic and engaging experiences.
4. We honor the region's peoples, past and present.
5. We appreciate unique cultural and historic assets within the nationally important landscape.
6. We will invest in community engagement, education, and empowerment.
7. We will sustain and grow a sense of place.
8. We value and protect the natural environment.
9. We will consider future generations in all actions.

Name of Site or Organization requesting to become a Partner:

Name of Person(s) with decision making authority for the potential Partner:

Signature

Date

Printed Name if different than the one(s) listed above

To submit Pledge Application or request assistance, please email [Kate Sutter](#)



Who is the best Point of Contact for Freedom's Frontier in your organization?

Name and Title: _____

Email: _____

Work Home

Phone: _____

Work Home

Questions about Organization and Site:

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Website: _____

Phone: _____

Does your site have social media? Yes (please list below) No

Is your site/organization open to the public? Yes No Hours: _____

Please list official affiliation(s) with other FFNHA Partners _____

Include a short (max 500 word) **text description** and attach (to email) a **high-resolution image** for our website and our phone app. You may submit text here:

FFNHA New Partner Questionnaire for App and Website

Type of Story

- Settling the Region
- Native Americans
- Military
- African Americans
- Border War
- Battle
- Burning
- Assassinaton
- Civil War
- Slavery, Abolition, and the Underground Railroad
- Landscape
- Jim Crow & Civil Rights Struggle
- Equal Rights Struggle
- Historic Transportation Routes
- Post-War Reconstructor & Remembrance

Location Features

- Staffed
- Public Restrooms
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Parking
- Gift Shop
- Water Fountain
- Bus/RV Parking
- ID Required
- Research Library
- Hiking Trails
- Camping
- AC / Heating Group
- Tours
- Group Meeting Room

Type of Location

- Kid-friendly
- Living History
- Historic Home
- Museum
- Interpretative
- Signs Monument
- Natural Area
- National Register of Historic Places
- Walking Tours
- Driving Tours

Circle/Highlight Your County

Kansas:

Allen, Anderson, Atchison, Bourbon, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Clay, Coffey, Crawford, Douglas, Franklin, Geary, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Labette, Leavenworth, Linn, Miami, Montgomery, Neosho, Osage, Pottawatomie, Riley, Shawnee, Wabaunsee, Wilson, Woodson, Wyandotte

Missouri:

Barton, Bates, Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte, Ray, St. Clair, Vernon

For questions or submissions, please contact:

**Kate Sutter: ksutter@freedomfrontier.org
Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator
785.312.1396**

For Website and Tech questions, please contact:

**Johnny Szlauderbach: jszlauderbach@freedomfrontier.org
Director of Communications and Projects
785.424.5594**