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For Immediate Release – April 21, 2009

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## **Oberlin Heritage Center Hosts Summer Camps for Kids and Teens** *Choose from Week-Long or One-Day Camps*

This summer, the Oberlin Heritage Center will offer four week-long day camps, and another week of single-day camps, several of which have been designed to help meet badge requirements for Girl and Boy Scouts programs. New this year is a “Junior Docent Camp” for young men and women 13 to 17 years old. Other “hands-on” history camps are geared to boys and girls ages 8-13 (although some camps are also appropriate for slightly younger or older participants). Campers will learn about history, architecture, and world cultures through engaging activities and local field trips, all designed to encourage kids to view their community with new eyes and to use their creative and critical thinking skills. While the Junior Docent Camp runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., other camp hours have been extended this year – from 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day. All camps will be held in the air-conditioned Oberlin Depot at 240 South Main Street in Oberlin.

Summer camp master teachers are Liz Schultz, the Museum Education and Tour Coordinator at the Oberlin Heritage Center; Donna Shurr, Oberlin educator and visual artist; Maria Surovy, Cleveland educator and former Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Fellow; and Brittnei Sherrod, an Oberlin Heritage Center college student intern. Ms. Schultz has degrees in both archeology and anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and Binghamton University in New York as well as a M.A. in museum studies with a focus on museum education from the Cooperstown Graduate Program (New York). Mrs. Shurr is a past recipient of the Oberlin Heritage Center Teacher of the Year Award, and she is the Family and Consumer Science teacher and History Day coordinator at Oberlin High School. This is her ninth year teaching the summer camp program. Mrs. Surovy teaches middle school social studies at the Ratner School in Pepper Pike. Her experience includes a year of teaching abroad in Saipan in the Northern Marianas Islands, as well as extensive personal travel throughout Asia and Europe. This is Mrs. Surovy’s fourth year teaching the summer camp program. Brittnei Sherrod is an Oberlin College geology major and a Bonner Scholar. She has been active in Oberlin Heritage Center programs since her sophomore year at Oberlin High School. She looks forward to co-teaching her first Oberlin Heritage Center summer camp. All instructors will be assisted by high school and other college student interns.

The 2009 summer camp schedule includes:

**Session I: Junior Docent Camp, June 15 to 19** (for ages 13 to 17). This new camp will introduce young people who are interested in community service and leadership to techniques of greeting the public, public speaking, giving tours, teaching historic games, and much more. Following completion of the week-long session, participants will be asked to assist with various tours, special events and programs as their schedules permit. The participation fee is \$75 (\$65 for children and grandchildren of Oberlin Heritage Center members) but \$50 will be reimbursed if the student completes fifteen hours of service for the Heritage Center by the end of 2009. What a great way to develop some new skills, build a resume, and complete community service hours! Co-teachers

Brittnei Sherrod and Liz Schultz are eager to share with young students the behind the scenes fun of being a museum docent. The hours for this camp are 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Session II: Hungry for History, July 20 to July 24** (for ages 8 to 13). Where and how did people get their food before there were grocery stores? What would holiday celebrations be without colored eggs, birthday cake, or pumpkin pie? In this **new** camp, boys and girls will explore how people grew plants, raised animals, and cooked meals years ago. They will hear stories about how food is part of culture, learn about unusual traditions, ceremonies and celebrations centered on food, and have fun playing historic games made from or focused on food. Each day kids will safely prepare a food the historic way and then taste their creation. Walking field trips will explore nearby kitchens, gardens and other sites of culinary interest. There will be a family program on the last day at 4:00 p.m. so that campers may share what they have learned.

**Session III: Kids & World Cultures, July 27 to July 31** (for ages 8 to 13). This ever-popular camp features a **new** topic this year: **Cultures of the Ancient World** introduces kids to Ancient Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, China, Africa, Aborigines, and the Americas. Through hands on crafts, games, music and more they will enjoy learning by doing. In studying Mesopotamia, for example, the children will make cuneiform tablets. They'll also enjoy nibbling "historic snacks" from various regions. Families are invited to a special program on the last day of camp at 4:00 p.m. to experience some of what their campers have learned.

**Session IV: Friends of Freedom, August 3 to August 7** (for ages 8 to 13). Children will experience the sites and stories that make Oberlin so special as a major stopover point on the Underground Railroad. They will learn about the perilous journeys people made in their pursuit of freedom and the many people in Oberlin and elsewhere who worked to bring an end to slavery in various ways. Campers will take on the roles of freedom seekers and abolitionists in a play written by Oberlin teacher Barbara Enos which will be performed for campers' families at week's end.

The following are new "History for the Day" camps, with each day spent on specific topics designed to help meet badge requirements for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and also to appeal to children who are not in a scouting program. Each one-day session is from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Session V: Listening to the Past** (Monday, August 10). This program for girls ages 6 to 8 is designed in accordance with the Brownie badge requirements. Participants will explore Oberlin's historic landmarks and monuments on a guided tour, hear stories of the earliest residents and learn what life was like in the past. They'll explore what children wore, and play historic games.

**Session VI: Local Lore** (Tuesday, August 11). This program for girls ages 8 to 11 is designed in accordance with Junior Girl Scout badge requirements. Activities will include exploring town with a guide, visiting a museum, and being a history detective to figure out how things have changed using historic maps and photographs.

**Session VII: What Makes America Special** (Wednesday, August 12). This program for boys ages 8 to 10 is designed in accordance with Bear level Cub Scout badge requirements. Participants will tour Oberlin and visit historic homes, hear stories about famous and infamous residents, learn about Ohio's history and state symbols and share how they can become good citizens.

**Session VIII: American Heritage** (Thursday, August 13). This program for boys 10 to 14 is designed in accordance with Boy Scout badge requirements. Participants will learn about historic preservation and investigate the symbols and traditions that are part of American heritage. They'll explore local landmarks and monuments, listen to historic songs their parents and ancestors may have enjoyed, and learn about how they can take part in preserving architecture.

**Session IX: Architecture** (Friday, August 14). This one-day workshop is for boys and girls ages 8 to 13 and relates to both Junior Girl Scout and Boy Scout badge projects. Campers will enjoy learning about architecture and the architectural profession by exploring local buildings and their unique details, trying architectural drawing and building activities, and meeting with an architect.

The fee for each week-long summer camp is \$95 per child (\$85 for children and grandchildren of Oberlin Heritage Center members). [Please note that the Junior Docent Camp has a separate fee structure as stated previously.] Each one-day camp session costs \$20 (\$18 for children and grandchildren of members). Partial scholarships are available to those who qualify for schools' free lunch programs. Registration forms are available on the Oberlin Heritage Center's website at [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org), or from the Oberlin Heritage Center office (73½ South Professor Street). For more information, contact Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700 or send an e-mail to [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org).

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