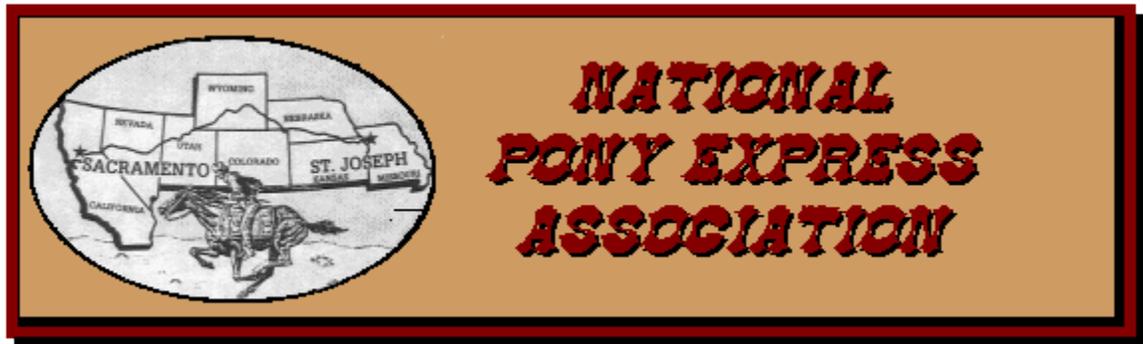


National Pony Express Association



Strategic Plan

2014-2019

National Pony Express Association
P.O. Box 236
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Strategic Plan

Introduction

The National Pony Express Association (NPEA) was established in 1978 to honor the memory and endeavors of the Pony Express riders of 1860-1861 and to identify, preserve, and mark the original Pony Express route through the eight states it crossed: California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. With the creation of the Pony Express National Historic Trail in 1992, the association became the primary non-federal advocate for the preservation of the designated national historic trail.

This is the first strategic plan developed by the association. On May 16 and 17, 2014 the NPEA's strategic planning committee held a workshop in Tooele, Utah, to produce the framework of a five-year plan. The National Park Service, National Trails Intermountain Region facilitated the strategic planning workshop. The proposed strategic plan is slated to be approved by the association's membership at the September 2014 annual meeting in Sacramento, California.

This strategic plan describes the future direction for the association. The NPEA mission, vision, and goals for future achievement are included, along with objectives and related tasks. These provide the foundation for a strategy that will implement the specific goals, objectives, and tasks that support the vision and mission of the association. These goals, objectives, and tasks are considered critical, and therefore of the highest priority, for realizing the NPEA mission.

This strategic plan is expected to have a five-year time frame and will be reviewed annually at the national delegates meeting. The state divisions of the association are encouraged to review and develop activities for fulfillment and support of the national association plan. The strategic goals, objectives, and tasks have been developed such that the state divisions of the association will maintain their ability to carry out local commemorative events, educational programs, trail work, parades, trail rides, and other activities that complement and affirm NPEA's vision and mission, with the annual re-ride of the Pony Express a major focus of the association's activities.

While the goals, objectives, and tasks identified in the strategic plan are of highest priority, there are still other important activities that are on-going and conducted year-round and association-wide. These other local, state, and national events and activities represent the wide range of accomplishments undertaken annually and carried out by dedicated NPEA volunteer members in support of the association mission.

Vision

The National Pony Express Association will keep the spirit and memory of the Pony Express alive.

Mission

Our mission is to identify and preserve the Pony Express National Historic Trail today and for future generations by partnering with others, providing education, and creating public awareness through an annual re-ride and other activities.

Mission Goals

Four broad goals describe how NPEA will achieve its mission. These address trail preservation, education, partnerships, organizational effectiveness, and membership. Each goal is supported by objectives and implemental tasks.

- Goal 1.** Identify and preserve the Pony Express National Historic Trail resources
- Goal 2.** Educate the public about the Pony Express history, heritage, legend, and legacy
- Goal 3.** Promote public awareness, enjoyment, and stewardship of the Pony Express National Historic Trail
- Goal 4.** Ensure organizational accountability and sustainability

Goal 1. The National Pony Express Association will identify and preserve the Pony Express National Historic Trail resources.			
Objectives	Tasks	Lead [Point of Contact]*	Year
A. Identify potential risks to resources	i. Collaborate with agency planners and private landowners to identify and protect trail resources	State Presidents	on-going 2014-2019
	ii. Conduct protection activities for resources at risk	State Presidents	on-going 2014-2019
B. Verify trail and sites through research and fieldwork	i. Expand knowledge of trail-related resources	Trail Captains	on-going 2014-2019
	ii. Locate and document trail and sites	Trail Captains	on-going 2014-2019

Goal 2. The National Pony Express Association will educate the public about the Pony Express history, heritage, legend, and legacy.			
Objectives	Tasks	Lead [Point of Contact]*	Year
A. Provide educational activities in conjunction with the annual re-ride	i. Create a commemorative letter to carry in the mochila	Ride Letter Secretary	on-going 2014-2019
	ii. Take advantage of opportunities to make presentations and provide information at various locations along the trail	State Memberships and Boards	on-going 2014-2019
B. Continue educational outreach in schools and civic organizations	i. Expand distribution of the national five-day lesson plan for educators	Executive Board	2015
	ii. Expand and track number of presentations and range of audiences reached	Education Coordinator	on-going 2014-2019

Goal 3. The National Pony Express Association will promote public awareness, enjoyment, and stewardship of the Pony Express National Historic Trail.			
Objectives	Tasks	Lead [Point of Contact]*	Year
A. Mark the trail in each state so that it is easily recognized and encourages public use	i. Utilize partnerships to implement sign plans	Project Coordinator	on-going 2014-2019
B. Hold an annual re-ride to increase public interest and knowledge	i. Create a standardized informational packet and distribute to individuals, major media outlets, and organizations nationally and internationally	Corresponding Secretary	2015
	ii. Expand knowledge of the re-ride through use of social media	Corresponding Secretary Web Master	2015
C. Commemorate the Pony Express by establishing monuments, statues, and silhouettes	i. Plan, identify, and obtain funding for placement of new, and maintenance of existing, commemorative works	Project Coordinator National President	on-going 2014-2019
	ii. Manage project implementation through partnerships	Project Coordinator National President	on-going 2014-2019
D. Expand and improve outreach to the public	i. Develop and distribute new National Pony Express Association informational brochure	Corresponding Secretary	2016
	ii. Use social media for relevancy, to reach new audiences and to increase interest in the Pony Express	Corresponding Secretary Web Master	on-going 2014-2019

Goal 4. The National Pony Express Association will ensure organizational accountability and sustainability.			
Objectives	Tasks	Lead [Point of Contact]*	Year
A. Hold an annual delegates meeting to promote transparency, coordinate activities, address concerns, and support networking	i. Review and revise the association by-laws	National President	2016
	ii. Review and revise the National Pony Express Association strategic plan	Strategic Planning Committee	on-going 2014-2019
B. Recruit new rider and non-rider members to support association viability	i. Establish a committee to develop strategies for expanding membership	National President Executive Board	2014
	ii. Review recommendations and implement approved strategies	Membership Committee	2015
C. Document the association's history	i. Establish a committee with representation from each state	Association Historian	2014
	ii. Identify and gather association records and oral histories	Association History Committee	on-going 2014-2019
D. Energize the membership through a safe and expeditious re-ride and other interactive activities	i. Establish a safety plan to provide criteria for physical condition of horse and rider	Ride Captains	on-going 2014-2019
	ii. Celebrate the volunteer members through appropriate recognition	Association Leadership	on-going 2014-2019

* For each of the identified tasks a responsible party has been identified as the lead or point of contact. While this individual may not directly perform the identified task, they will be responsible for its accomplishment.

Review Process

This strategic plan will be reviewed by the state presidents for their consideration and comment during the summer of 2014. Additional comments will be sought from the general membership following the annual re-ride in June 2014. Comments will be due back to the strategic planning committee for consideration by August 15, 2014, and in anticipation of finalizing the plan prior to the September 2014 national delegates meeting. The strategic plan will be approved by voting delegates at the national meeting. In future years, this strategic plan will be reviewed at the annual national delegates meeting to guide work plans, track accomplishments, and revise objectives, goals, and tasks as needed.