



ACTIVITY PROFILE

MLK National Day of Service Storytelling Project

Version 1122021

Brief Description

The Calvert Peace Project will observe the 2022 observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service by bringing community members across generations, races, and ethnicities through storytelling to learn more about each other's experiences living in Calvert County, Maryland.

Purpose

Through this activity, the Calvert Peace Project seeks to provide members of the Calvert County, Maryland community a service project opportunity that will increase their understanding of the diversity of life experiences among Calvert community members, contribute to the national archive of Americans' stories, and uplift Martin Luther King's legacy of service and his dream of building beloved community.

Intended Participants

The Calvert Peace Project will make this community service project available to any youths or adults in Calvert County, Maryland who wish to participate. We will reach out to civic and service organizations serving Calvert County to invite them to encourage their members and supporters to participate in the project. Among the organizations we will approach are Jack & Jill, NAACP, PRISM, Rotary Club, and The Big Conversation.

Detailed Description

StoryCorps is a national storytelling organization which began in 2003 and has since evolved into a movement. Their mission is “to preserve and share humanity’s stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world. We do this to remind one another of our shared humanity, to strengthen and build the connections between people, to teach the value of listening, and to weave into the fabric of our culture the understanding that everyone’s story matters. At the same time, we are creating an invaluable archive for future generations.”

This service project will take place virtually on or around the third week of January 2022 to time it with the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service.

Project participants will have been recruited in advance and matched in pairs and indicate a preference to be interviewer or interviewee.

The pair will select a mutually agreeable date and time to meet via StoryCorps Connect, a video conference technology developed by StoryCorps. StoryCorps Connect records audio and captures a still photo of the interview that will then be uploaded into the StoryCorps inventory and then archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Using a StoryCorps’ structured interview format, participants will share stories of their life experiences living in Calvert County, Maryland and deepen their listening skills. We will develop and disseminate interview questions in advance. Each pair will follow our questions to provide a comparative overview of lived experience.

The interviews lengths will vary depending on each pair’s story and level of engagement. We assume interviews of 60 minutes or less duration.

We will hold an optional virtual Zoom call on the late afternoon of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday for project participants who wish to share reflections of their service project experience and the national day of service with others who participated in the service project.

Performance Measures

We will measure participant changes in knowledge about others' life experiences and changes in empathy for others. We will measure participant satisfaction with the service project.