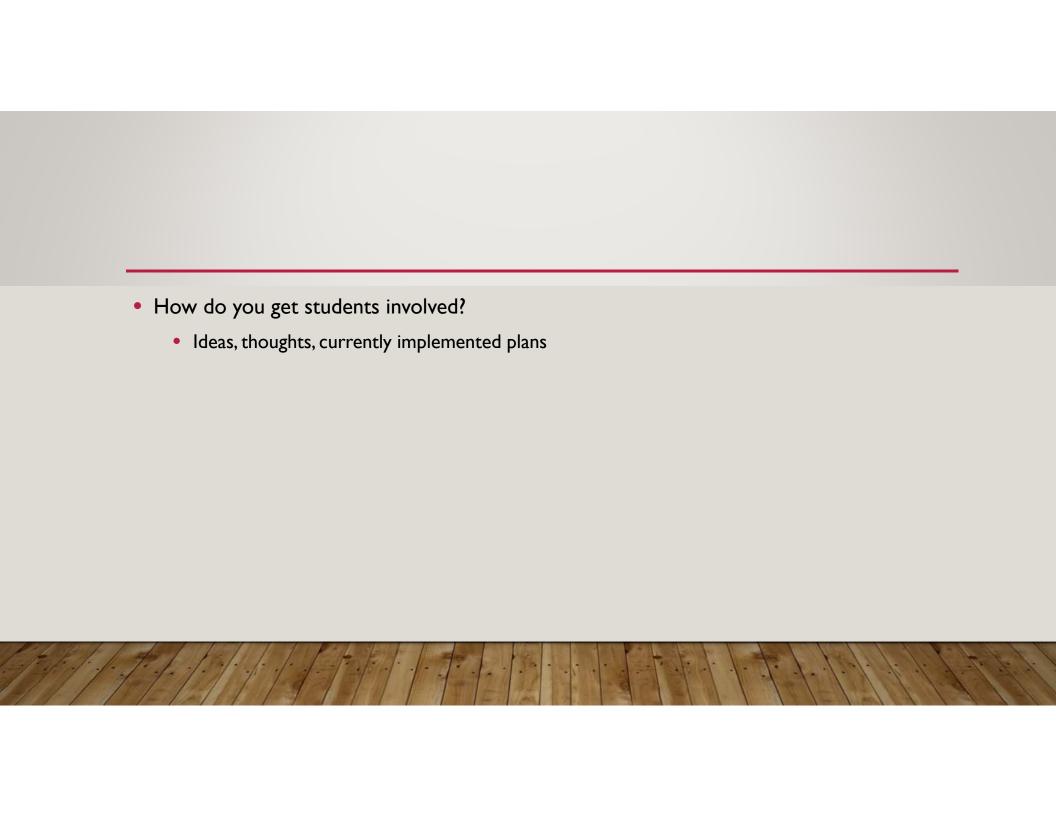
# GETTING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INVOLVED

**WESLEY FRANKLIN** 



# INTRODUCTION

- Wesley Franklin
- Freshman at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls
  - Majoring in History
- History Enthusiast

# **CONTENTS**

- Topics include:
  - How I got involved in my historical society
  - History Clubs
  - Current state of history education in schools
  - How your historical society can get high school students involved

## **INTEREST IN HISTORY**

• Why I am interested in history

#### MY STORY

- Became involved rather early
  - Before I entered high school
- Glenwood Area Historical Society was small, and stalled
  - Not much going on
- Put an ad in the local newspaper
  - I responded and caught on
    - Small role at first
- Began to become more and more involved

#### BECOMING A BOARD MEMBER

- Had worked with the historical for two years
  - Attended a board meeting
  - Had ideas for the history center
  - Monty Edwards asked if I wanted to join the board
- Ran for a board position and won
  - Have now been on the board for four years
  - Currently Vice President

#### ROLES WITHIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- Help write stories for newsletter
- Board Member
  - Office positions
- Presentations
  - World War II presentation, Normandy
- Any work
  - Wayne Peterson Farm

### **GLENWOOD CITY HISTORY CLUB**

- Club takes field trips and collaborates with historical society
- Provides students the opportunity to enjoy history

#### **GLENWOOD CITY HISTORY CLUB**

- Came up with the idea
  - Not many students take history seriously
- Point of club is to get students involved with history outside of class to some level
- Had a core group of individuals help me form club
  - Now has over 45 members



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgmNkYUL\_Cw

#### WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENGAGE STUDENTS

- To ensure strength for your historical society
  - Students know technology, have new and fresh ideas
- Give student another avenue to learn and appreciate history

# HOW TO GET STUDENTS INVOLVED IN YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- Provide ample opportunities
  - Don't just put out volunteer hours
  - Offer something
    - Like funding for National WWII museum trip
    - Neat contest
    - Board position specifically for high school student
- Make yourself visible
- Connect with local schools
  - Talk with history teachers
    - May be able to provide a shortlist of students they think are interested