

GETTING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INVOLVED

WESLEY FRANKLIN



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- How do you get students involved?
 - Ideas, thoughts, currently implemented plans

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