



## Who We Are and What We Stand For

### OUR STORY

First State Heritage Park unites the numerous public and private cultural entities in Dover, Delaware, to provide a cohesive and high-quality experience to guests visiting the capital city of the First State. This organization was created through Executive Order by Governor Ruth Ann Minner in 2004, uniting the Biggs Museum of American Art, Delaware Public Archives, and historic sites administered by the Delaware Department of Historical & Cultural Affairs and Delaware State Parks.

Since its establishment, the Delaware State Parks component of First State Heritage Park has served as the lynchpin, working to unite with its partner organizations and create thematic programming that extend the breadth of Dover's cultural resources.

### OUR ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

First State Heritage Park reveals the cultural treasures of Delaware's capital city from pre-history to the modern day.

### OUR MISSION

First State Heritage Park is Delaware's first urban park without boundaries, nestled in the heart of historic downtown Dover. Centering on the capital's historic Green and Legislative Hall, FSHP shares the stories of remarkable Delawareans and innovative governance in the First State. Guests are invited to immerse themselves in Delawarean history through experiences facilitated by historical interpreters, each dressed head-to-toe in authentic garb reflective of the state's revolutionary heritage.

### OUR INTERPRETATION VALUES

First State Heritage Park is a member of the Delaware State Parks system, serving the citizens of the First State and visitors wishing to partake in its rich natural and cultural resources. We do that by committing to a series of core beliefs that guide our conduct, internally and externally:

1. **A Commitment to Holistic Approaches to History:** interpretation at FSHP embraces the full nuance and diversity of history, aiming to provide a clear, complete, and honest window into the past through engaging guest experiences.
2. **A Commitment to Authenticity:** FSHP holds itself to rigorous standards of authenticity and scholarship, maintaining the highest professional principles.



3. **A Commitment to Access & Inclusion:** we strive to present a fair and equitable lens unto the past and seek always to ensure that our programming embraces people of all identities, and can be accessed and appreciated by all.
4. **A Commitment to Relevance:** FSHP uses its public programming to emphasize links between the past and present in order to promote a better, more equitable future through applied education, empathy, and civic engagement.
5. **A Commitment to Cooperation:** FSHP exists, and our reach is expanded, through our active partnerships, both public and private non-profit.
6. **A Commitment to Future Generations:** the ultimate goal of our interpretive efforts is to cultivate and promote lifelong stewardship of Delaware's resources.

## DELAWARE STATE PARKS INTERPRETATION VALUES

Interpretation is meant to inspire and provoke. Delaware State Parks interpreters work collaboratively, as if one park, to create meaningful connections that inspire lifelong stewardship.

***Vision Statement:*** *Our programs forge enduring connections to Delaware's natural, historic and cultural resources, inspiring respect, responsibility, and stewardship of those resources.*

***Mission Statement:*** *We provide quality, inclusive, resource-based experiences that last a lifetime.*