

A Unique and Transformative Learning Experience

Sojourn students' goals are to raise awareness and challenge the modern day problems that prejudice and intolerance impose on our society.

Upwards of 80% of students who participate in Sojourn demonstrate transformed attitudes and behaviors regarding their desire to pursue personal success and civic responsibility. Data supports that, among Sojourn alumni, there is:

- an increase in number who pursue post secondary education;
- increased involvement in their schools and communities to promote equity and justice;
- an increase in number who see themselves as leaders;
- an increase in number who speak out against injustice; bullying

National Recognition

- 2016 Salute to Greatness Award from the King Center - Presented to Sojourn by Dr. King's Daughter, Dr. Bernice King.
- 2014 Hidden Hero Award of the Andrew Goodman Foundation
- President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities National Youth Program Award, **the nation's highest honor** for after school programs in the arts and humanities - presented by **First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House (See front cover)**
- Independent Charities of America Seal of Excellence - awarded to less than 2,000 of the one million charities in the US
- US Congressional Resolution honoring Sojourn - presented on the floor of the United States Congress by Congressman John Lewis.
- US Senator Barbara Boxer's Excellence in Education Award
- National Education Association Carter G. Woodson Memorial Award

"Few projects have captured my attention like Sojourn to the Past. These young people were undoubtedly moved by what they witnessed, and will take the lessons they learned regarding the pursuit of equality for all humankind with them into adulthood."

- **Martin Luther King III**



For more information about

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"Ordinary people can do extraordinary things."

- **Minnijean Brown Trickey**

Minnijean is one of the Little Rock Nine who leads Sojourn's Anti-Racism and Music in the Movement workshops.



"I am consistently inspired when I interact with Sojourn students by the preparation they have received, by the empowerment they feel toward societal change, and I truly believe that this program is moving our country forward by changing these students' lives."

- **Congressman John Lewis**

Right: Congressman John Lewis leads students across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, retracing his footsteps from "Bloody Sunday," Selma, AL.



Above: John Lewis leading a peaceful march on "Bloody Sunday" 1965.



Right: John Lewis beaten on "Bloody Sunday."

"You might be someone's hope someday...you might help someone live another day."

- **Elizabeth Eckford**
One of the Little Rock Nine



Nationally Honored Living History Education Program in Social Justice and Civil Rights

Established in 1999

www.sojournproject.com



Above Left: Ms. Eckford beside the statue in her honor, Little Rock, AR.

Above Right: Elizabeth Eckford at Little Rock Central High School in 1957, the end to public school segregation.

The Six-Night, Seven-Day Journey Through History Includes:

- Air and on-ground transportation in a moving classroom/state-of-the-art buses through the American South
- Inclusive meals and lodging
- Security, chaperones, and nurse
- Entrance to all museums and historical locations for on-site instruction
- Rented classroom space in hotel venues
- Books and extensive curriculum materials
- Interaction/instruction with veteran leaders of the Civil Rights Movement
- Experienced educators in history and the humanities
- Option to register for college credit

Right: The four little girls killed attending Sunday School in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in 1963, Birmingham, AL.



Left: On-site lesson taught inside the church about the significance of the four little girls, and the importance of speaking up when witnessing injustice.



“Programs like Sojourn to the Past ensure America’s future as a land of liberty and justice for all.”
- **Senator Barbara Boxer**

“Sojourn to the Past is a life changing experience for young people who thirst to understand living history.”
- **Congresswoman Jackie Speier**

“Sojourn gave me the tools to connect with myself, with others, and the world around me.”
- **Sojourn Alum**

What is Sojourn to the Past?

Sojourn’s mission is to empower a new generation of leaders across America to become successful and engaged citizens who promote social justice through the principles of nonviolence.

Recipient of the **nation’s highest honor** for after school programs in the arts and humanities, Sojourn is recognized nationally as the only social justice/civil rights program of its kind for youth in the country. Created in 1999, the program provides a unique, hands-on learning experience that uses the lens of the Civil Rights Movement to teach lessons in human rights that are relevant to current societal issues, such as bullying, violence, hatred and discrimination.

In addition to customizing its mobile, interactive civil rights history presentations for K-12 schools, service clubs, and other agencies, Sojourn is best known for its transformative, living history, immersion journeys for high school youth (an abbreviated journey is available for middle school students.) Over 8,500 students and teachers have participated in over eighty moving classroom journeys along the path of the Civil Rights Movement in the American South. Students meet with veterans of the Movement and study with them at the influential sites that changed the course of human rights in America.

On the journeys, students develop direct action plans that they implement into their schools and communities, such as Sojourn students in Youngstown, Ohio, who founded Nonviolence Week in their community.



Above: Gov. Kasich (R-Ohio), along with Sojourn students, signing statewide nonviolence week into law.

Journey Highlights

Sojourn creates 7 day itineraries from the below 10 day Civil Rights trail.



Atlanta, GA: Dr. King’s & Coretta Scott King’s grave sites, King Center for Nonviolent Social Change

Selma, AL: Brown Chapel, Edmund Pettus Bridge, and Walking Tour of Selma

Montgomery, AL: State Capitol Building (where Sojourn students reenact the Selma to Montgomery March), Civil Rights Memorial, Southern Poverty Law Center

Birmingham, AL: 16th Street Baptist Church, Kelly Ingram Park and the National Civil Rights Institute

Meridian, MS: Grave site of James Chaney

Hattiesburg, MS: Grave site of Vernon Dahmer Sr., Dahmer family home

Jackson, MS: Medgar Evers’ Home, Jerry Mitchell

Little Rock, AR: Central High School, Central High School National Historic Site Visitors Center, Statues on Capitol grounds

Memphis, TN: Lorraine Motel (where Dr. King was assassinated), The National Civil Rights Museum

Sojourn Speakers

Congressman John Lewis: Withstood numerous beatings and jailings as a leader of some of the most famous civil rights actions.

Minnijean Brown Trickey: One of the Little Rock Nine; leads Sojourn’s Anti-Racism and Music in the Movement workshops.

Elizabeth Eckford: One of the Little Rock Nine. Terrorized by a Mob on her first day of school and her iconic photo was voted one of the top 100 photos of the 20th century.

Clark Olsen: Minister who was beaten and witnessed the murder of his friend, Jim Reeb, in Selma, AL.

Joanne Bland: Child participant in the Movement; director of Journeys for The Soul Museum.

McNair Family and Sarah Collins: The family of one of the four little girls murdered in the Klan bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church and one of the survivors.

The Dahmer Family: Vernon Dahmer was killed by the Klan for helping people register to vote.

Angela Lewis: Was an infant when her father, James Chaney, along with Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, were murdered.

Myrlie Evers-Williams & Reena Evers: Widow and daughter of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers. Ms. Evers-Williams is the Former Chairwoman of NAACP and Ms. Reena Evers is the Executive Director of the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Foundation.

Jerry Mitchell: Leading civil rights reporter who exposed the Sovereignty Commission files.

Simeon Wright: Was in the room with cousin Emmett Till the night Till was abducted and murdered.

In Remembrance: Jimmy Webb: At age sixteen, he participated in the nonviolent struggle for voting rights

In Remembrance: Rev. Billy Kyles: Civil Rights leader in Memphis who was standing with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. the night Dr. King was assassinated.

In Remembrance: Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth: One of the “Big Three” of the Civil Rights Movement

*Speakers Based Upon Availability

Scholarships based on need contact us at info@sojournproject.com