



Blacksmith Mark Henderson demonstrates his craft July 24 at Jones-Hughes Pioneer History Park.



Photo by Jason Jones, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Clover is a great plant to feed your desert tortoise.

Adopt a Desert Tortoise

Nearly a dozen tortoises need homes in Utah. Wouldn't it be fun to have a pet that makes your neighbors "ooh" and "ahh"? As long as you're willing to give up part of your backyard, you can.

Division of Wildlife Resources biologists are putting nearly a dozen desert tortoises up for adoption. Listed as threatened on the federal Endangered Species list, most of the tortoises were found after people removed them from their native homes. Once a wild tortoise is taken from the wild, it can't be released. Releasing it could introduce diseases into Utah's wild tortoise population.

Even though desert tortoises require some room, Jason Jones says caring for one is easier than caring for other pets. "They won't bark or chase your neighbor's cat," says Jones, a DWR native aquatic species biologist. "And five months out of the year, they'll be in hibernation in your house."

To adopt a desert tortoise, you need a fenced area that's at least 15 feet by 10 feet. "Tortoises also need burrows, so you'll have to build some," Jones says. "You'll also need to plant dandelions, clover and other plants the tortoise can eat."

Even though it takes work to provide a tortoise with a place to live, Jones says it's worth it. "Desert tortoises are fun pets," he says. "They're unique too. How many people can say they have a 'desert dinosaur' living in their backyard?"

Jones says being allowed to care for a federally protected species is also a rare occurrence and a privilege. More information about adopting a desert tortoise in Utah is available in the Desert Tortoise Adoption booklet. The free booklet is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/pdf/dt_adopt.pdf.

If you have questions, please call Jones at (801) 538-4830.

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Humanities Grants available for programs in American History

The Utah Humanities Council announces the continuation of an initiative called We The People. Funded by a special appropriation from Congress to the National Endowment for the Humanities, We The People supports programs that explore significant events, people, and themes in American history.

The Utah Humanities Council invites grant proposals that focus on advancing the public's knowledge of America's past and the principles that define our nation.

Examples of projects that may fit UHC's criteria for a We The People grant include (but are not limited to):

- An exhibition, public lecture, symposium, or conference that explores any theme, event, or issue associated with American history and culture. Applicants should feel free to explore the full breadth of the American experience. Topics in social, political, and cultural history (immigration, ethnicity, popular entertainment, and race relations, for example) will be considered.
- Development and production of a documentary film on one or more aspects of America's past with a planned public screening.
- A program designed to give public audiences an historical explanation of the work of an American artist, author, or poet.
- A seminar or public lecture series that focuses on the place of Utah in the broader history of the United States.

Proposals for We The People funding will be evaluated through UHC's established grant review process and must meet already established guidelines posted on UHC's website (www.utahhumanities.org/Grants.php). Funding may be sought through the Major Grant (Applications Deadlines are August 1, 2010; February 1, 2011), Quick Grant (No Deadline), or research fellowship application (Application Deadline is February 1, 2011) process.

Any nonprofit organization, institution, or group, whether or not incorporated or tax-exempt, is eligible to submit a proposal for a We The People grant.

Potential applicants include colleges and universities, libraries, museums, historical societies, professional associations, agencies of state and local government, community organizations, public radio and television stations, and ad hoc groups.

Co-sponsorship by two or more organizations is encouraged. Funding through UHC (with the exception of the research fellowship programs) is not available to individuals.

The Utah Humanities Council staff will be happy to advise you on completing

the application process for a We The People grant, as well as to suggest appropriate scholars or other resources that may be useful to you.

If you have an idea for a project that you think might qualify for a We The People grant or if you have questions, please feel free to contact Maria Torres at torres@utahhumanities.org or 801.359.9670 x105.

For more information on the national We The People initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, consult the NEH's We The People website (www.wethepeople.gov).

The greatest degree of inner tranquility comes from the development of love and compassion. The more we care for the happiness of others, the greater is our own sense of well-being.

- Tenzin Gyatso, 14th Dalai Lama

A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.

- Mohandas K. Gandhi

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.

- William James

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