

Mississippi River Partnership Wins Top Environmental Award

“Big River Journey,” an educational partnership program of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area was named “2007 Partnership of the Year” by the Minnesota Environmental Initiative. Twelve organizations collaborate on Big River Journey to connect thousands of students annually to the Mississippi River’s science and heritage, and foster watershed stewardship. To date over 33,000 students have participated in the program, based in St. Paul, MN.



The Big River Journey partnership engages elementary students in standards-based, river curriculum over several months. Included are hands-on science explorations, computer learning, geography, reading, writing, music, art, a river field trip with boat and land-based learning stations, and community service projects that offer students the chance to learn and

practice river stewardship. An annual Big River Student Art Show displayed at the Science Museum of Minnesota is among the products of Big River Journey. The Environmental Partnership Awards were presented May 17, 2007 in a ceremony in Minneapolis; the Partnership of the Year is the top honor, with the winner selected from among sixty nominations.

Big River Journey partner organizations include: Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (NPS), Padelford Boat Co., Science Museum of Minnesota, Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources Adopt-A-River, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Snelling State Park, Project WET, Hamline University Center for Global Environmental Education, Friends of the Mississippi River, Minnesota Historical Society, Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Community, and Mississippi River Fund.

The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area is the National Park unit to represent the nationally significant stories and resources of the Mississippi River. The area extends 72 miles through the Twin Cities, from the Crow River at Dayton and Ramsey, through Minneapolis and St. Paul, to the St. Croix River just past Hastings. Orientation to the park is available at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, located off the lobby of the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.

Partners in above photo:

Back row- left to right: Leonard Wabasha- Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Community, Jim Kosmo- Padelford Boat Co., Pat Hamilton- Science Museum of Minnesota, Paul Nordell- Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources Adopt-A-River, Nicole Rankin- Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Judy Thompson- Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, Mary Maule- National Park Service, Kathy Swenson- National Park Service

Front row, left to right: Kevin Maijla- Minnesota Historical Society, Shelly Kosmo- Padelford Boat Co., Lyndon Torstenson- National Park Service, April Rust- Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources Project WET, Linda Radimecky- Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources Fort Snelling State Park