

For Immediate Release

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Public Meetings on World Heritage Nominations  
to be held at Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

On Monday, December 11, Hopewell Culture National Historical Park (NHP) will host a public meeting concerning applications by Hopewell Culture NHP and the Ohio Historical Society to list several prehistoric archeological areas as World Heritage Sites. The meeting will be held in the Park's visitor center at Mound City on State Route 104 north of Chillicothe. The meeting starts at 6:00pm. It is one of four meetings to be held near the nominated sites. The other meetings will be in Peebles on Dec. 5, in Newark on Dec. 7, and at Fort Ancient State Memorial on Dec. 14.

Many of the world's most famous natural and historic sites have been honored with listings as a World Heritage Site. Some of the sites include the Grand Canyon, the Pyramids in Egypt, Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the Taj Mahal in India, and the Great Wall of China. The Ohio Historical Society and Hopewell Culture NHP believe that the great earthworks of the Hopewell culture should be recognized in this way.

The United States is now preparing a new list of nominations to be submitted over the next 10 years. Nominations are being accepted from government agencies and private property owners. In response to this call the Ohio Historical Society and Hopewell Culture NHP are proposing a nomination that includes important Hopewell culture sites of Newark Earthworks, Fort Ancient, and the five units of Hopewell Culture NHP. In addition the Ohio Historical Society will nominate Serpent Mound as a separate nomination. It is likely that only 20 to 25 nominations submitted to Washington will be short listed for consideration by the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Only nominations with community support will receive much consideration at the Washington level.

The public meetings are an opportunity to learn more about the World Heritage Program and ask questions about the program and the proposed nominations. If you have any questions, please contact Park Superintendent Dean Alexander at (740) 774-1126.

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. Experience your America!

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