



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 20, 2025

Contact: Neil Thompson | 614-917-9348

nthompson@ohiohistory.org

Ohio World Heritage Week Celebration Planned for Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks from April 12-18

COLUMBUS – The Ohio History Connection and the National Park Service are planning seven days of special events at seven locations of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, Ohio’s first and only UNESCO World Heritage Site.

On April 18 each year, World Heritage Day, also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, is an international observance for sites around the globe that hold outstanding universal value.

[Ohio World Heritage Week](#) was established in 2024 to celebrate World Heritage Day in the Buckeye State. This year’s World Heritage Week is scheduled April 12-18, culminating in an all-day event at the Octagon Earthworks in Newark on World Heritage Day.

All events during World Heritage Week are free, and no registration is required.

“Every World Heritage Day is an opportunity to recognize how important the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks are to Ohio,” said Megan Wood, Executive Director and CEO of the Ohio History Connection. “During World Heritage Week, we are pleased to showcase these masterpieces of ancient landscape architecture built by American Indians.”

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks is the collective name for eight works of monumental landscape architecture built by American Indians between 1,600 and 2,000 years ago in central and southern Ohio. Five of the earthworks sites are managed by the [National Park Service](#), and three are managed by the [Ohio History Connection](#).

The National Park Service’s five Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks locations are at [Hopewell Culture National Historical Park](#) in and around Chillicothe. The Ohio History Connection’s locations are in Heath, Newark and Oregonia. For details about all eight locations of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, go to hopewellearthworks.org.

The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks sites were inscribed to the UNESCO World Heritage List on Sept. 19, 2023, by the 21 countries on the World Heritage Committee during a meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. There are more than 1,200 World Heritage Sites around the globe, and the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks is the 25th of 26 World Heritage Listings in the U.S. and the first and only one in Ohio.

A schedule of events for Ohio World Heritage Week is available at hopewellearthworks.org/world-heritage-week-2025 and as follows:

Saturday, April 12

Fort Ancient Earthworks & Nature Preserve
[6123 State Route 350, Oregonia, OH 45054](#)

10:30 a.m.: Guided tour with Site Manager Bill Kennedy. Tour lasts 90 minutes to 2 hours.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 20, 2025

Contact: Neil Thompson | 614-917-9348

nthompson@ohiohistory.org

Sunday, April 13

Great Circle Earthworks

[455 Hebron Road, Heath, OH 43056](#)

Noon: Free guided tour led by Site Manager Sarah Hinkelman. Tour lasts 90 minutes to 2 hours.

2 p.m.: Storytime: "Grandmother Spider Brings the Sun" with a fun make-and-take activity designed for children ages 3–10.

Monday, April 14*

Hopeton Earthworks

[990 Hopetown Rd, Chillicothe, OH 45601](#)

10 a.m.: Free guided tour led by a Ranger. Architecture includes earthen monuments memorializing ancestral shrines and geometric enclosures aligned to the endless cycles of the Sun and Moon.

Tuesday, April 15*

Hopewell Mound Group

[4731 Sulphur Lick Road, Chillicothe, OH 45601](#)

10 a.m.: Free guided tour led by a Ranger. At 111 acres, the main enclosure here is the largest single Hopewell earthen-walled area ever found and contained the largest Hopewell burial mound ever built.

Wednesday, April 16*

Seip Earthworks

[7058 US HWY 50, Bainbridge, OH 45612](#)

10 a.m.: Free guided tour led by a Ranger. This massive complex includes burial mounds and a collection of circular structures.

Thursday, April 17*

Mound City Group

[16062 State Route 104, Chillicothe, OH 45601](#)

10 a.m.: Free guided tour led by a Ranger. This site is the only fully recreated Hopewell earthwork complex of the five managed by the National Park Service.

***National Park Service Tour Reminders**

- Tours will last approximately 2 hours and will cover 2-3 miles of unpaved, uneven terrain.
- Tours are recommended for ages 12 and up.
- There are no restrooms at the Hopeton Earthworks or Seip Earthworks locations.

Friday, April 18

Octagon Earthworks

[125 N. 33rd St., Newark, OH 43055](#)

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Food trucks on site.

Noon: Free guided tour. Tour lasts 90 minutes to 2 hours.

3–4 p.m.: Create-and-Take Activity for young visitors. We will read Joy Harjo's "Remember," have a short presentation on the stars and moon and discuss how other cultures might have thought about time. The activity will end with participants creating their own clock or calendar to take home.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 20, 2025

Contact: Neil Thompson | 614-917-9348

nthompson@ohiohistory.org

3:30–6:30 p.m. Food trucks on site.

4:30–5:30 p.m. TED Talk-Style Panel Discussion: “What it Means to be a World Heritage Site” moderated by Site Manager Sarah Hinkelman, with opening remarks from Ohio History Connection Executive Director and CEO Megan Wood and Q&A session to wrap up.

5:30–6:30 p.m. World Heritage Ambassador Reception.

6:30–7:30 p.m. Free guided Twilight Tour.

Ongoing activity from 11 a.m.–7 p.m: World Heritage Bake It or Make It Contest.

- Try your hand at recreating a site on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Find ideas on the [UNESCO World Heritage webpage: UNESCO World Heritage Centre - World Heritage List](#).
 - The project must be able to fit in a 2-foot by 2-foot space.
- Two winners will be selected and notified April 19:
 - One winner will be selected by our Newark Earthworks Site staff, judged on accuracy to the World Heritage Site being replicated and originality of materials.
 - One winner will be chosen by popular vote.
- Winners of each category will receive an Ohio History Connection Membership, Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks merchandise and a guided tour of the Newark Earthworks for you and your friends or family. All submissions will receive Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks prizes.
- Entries may be dropped off at the Octagon Earthworks Visitor Center each from noon to 5 p.m. from April 14–18; perishable entries cannot be delivered before April 18.
- Entries must include a printed photo of the World Heritage Site being replicated.

###

About the Ohio History Connection:

The Ohio History Connection is a statewide history organization with the mission to spark discovery of Ohio’s stories. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization chartered in 1885, the Ohio History Connection carries out history services for Ohio and its citizens focused on preserving and sharing the state’s history. This includes housing the State Historic Preservation Office and the official state archives and managing more than 50 sites and museums across Ohio. For more information, go to ohiohistory.org. The Greater Columbus Arts Council and the Columbus Foundation provide support for Ohio History Connection programs.

About the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks:

The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks is Ohio’s first World Heritage Site and the 25th of 26 World Heritage Listings in the United States. The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks include eight locations in Ohio that are managed by the National Park Service and Ohio History Connection. They include the Mound City Group, Hopewell Mound Group, Seip Earthworks, High Bank Works and Hopeton Earthworks at Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Chillicothe; the Great Circle Earthworks and Octagon Earthworks in Heath and Newark; and the Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature Preserve in Oregonia. These earthworks were built by Native Americans between 1,600 and 2,000 years ago. They are complex masterpieces of landscape architecture and are exceptional among ancient monuments worldwide in their enormous scale, geometric precision and astronomical alignments. For more information about the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, go to hopewellearthworks.org.

###