

Contact: Resa O'Reilly
Phone: (340) 244-3242
Email:
info@projectpromisevi.com

10 ABC Queen Street
Christiansted, VI 00820
www.projectpromisevi.com

PROJECT PROMISE

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Project Promise Partners With NPS To Teach Local Sixth Graders About Salt River Bay

Christiansted, February 18, 2015 Project Promise is excited to announce its partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) to offer Salt River Bay's 2015 "Ticket to Ride" program. "This joint effort is in response to the Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell's call to invest in the next generation of National Park Stewards", said NPS Education and Interpretation Chief David Goldstein. Every public school sixth grade student will be afforded the opportunity to visit and learn about the Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve thanks to cooperative agreement funding from the National Park Service.

This is the first program offered by Project Promise, and organizers expect to see more than 500 students by its completion. The three-point program, designed by Project Promise President Resa O'Reilly and NPS, includes an introduction to the park at the school, followed by an on-site park tour, and a post-experience in-class visit by the instructor to review what was learned. All three parts take place in the same week. "The "Ticket to Ride" Program is an excellent opportunity for our students to learn about Salt River Bay's rich and vibrant history in an interactive and fun way. The kids are really enjoying this program", said O'Reilly.

The Visitor Center Tour introduces students to Salt River Bay's incredible history. They will explore Taino culture through artifacts and a PowerPoint, discover the story of Columbus' encounter where it occurred, and learn about Taino cosmology in a craft-making exercise. Students will tour the west side of the park and learn about the natural resources through ranger led activities. During the post-experience visit to the school, students will participate in a question and answer session about Salt River Bay's historical and natural significance.

Project Promise is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk youth on St. Croix by providing empowerment initiatives, cultural programs and family services.

###