

# Investing in the Future

## *The Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area*



### *National Heritage Area at a Glance*

- 42 Illinois Counties
- 24 Official Looking for Lincoln Communities
- 25,588 Square Miles
- 2.2 Million Residents/  
564 Municipalities
- 10 National Historic Monuments
- 51 Historic Districts
- 214 Protected Natural Areas
- 140 State Parks/  
Public Recreation Areas
- 5 National Scenic Byways
- Over 300 Lincoln Historic  
Sites/Attractions/Exhibits



In Partnership With



### *Lincoln's Legacy to a Nation*

Few individuals have so profoundly influenced American history as Abraham Lincoln. Still today, millions of visitors from throughout the world continue to be inspired by the story of his rise from humble beginnings to President of the United States. For over 30 years, Illinois provided the backdrop to Lincoln's life. Illinois is proud to celebrate the life and times of Abraham Lincoln throughout 42 counties federally designated as the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area (ALNHA). Here Lincoln's legacy is brought to life through amazing attractions such as the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site and many more. The stories surrounding Lincoln and the people he knew come to life through living history programs and special events designed to share his story with the world. The Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition (LFL) is the coordinating entity for the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. It is a partnership of organizations and individuals dedicated to enhancing the communities and landscapes of central Illinois to continue to preserve the Lincoln legacy for generations to come.

### *Achievements*

LFL works diligently to meet its goals for preserving and sharing the national treasure that is Abraham Lincoln. Here are just a few of the recent accomplishments:

- LEAD: The Spirit of Lincoln Youth Academy
- *Passport to Your National Parks* Program
- LFL Book Series
- LFL Signature Events
- New Official LFL Communities
- ALNHA Highway Signage Program

## LEAD: The Spirit of Lincoln Youth Academy

LEAD is a unique youth leadership program that immerses participants in a variety of experiences that empowers our emerging leaders to further develop their own individual leadership qualities. Students are specifically selected based on their recognized potential to be future leaders – in their schools, in their communities, and in our nation. Each year's LEAD class spends a full week exploring the qualities that made Abraham Lincoln such a great leader. They learn why those same qualities are so important in our leaders today, and how, as individuals, they can use those qualities as they develop their own leadership skills for the future.



## Looking for Lincoln Book Series

The LFL book series, a collaborative effort between Southern Illinois University Press and the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, examines Lincoln's rise to greatness from his central Illinois roots and shares the region's history and significance not only to the Lincoln story – but to the story of our nation. The series currently includes: *Lincoln's Springfield*, *Lincoln and Mormon Country*, and *A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit*. A fourth title, *Historic Houses of Lincoln's Illinois* is due for publication soon. Each book offers a guide to touring Lincoln's 19th century world in Illinois – while at the same time, giving the reader a chance to know the very human Abraham Lincoln who was loved and admired by family, friends and colleagues.

## Looking for Lincoln Signature Events

Each year, hundreds of special events are held throughout the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. In order to showcase those events that focus on interpreting the life and times of Lincoln by creating an educational, authentic and unique visitor experience that brings the Lincoln story to life – the Looking for Lincoln Signature Event program was established. Those events which have earned the distinction of being named an official LFL Signature Event currently include: *History Comes Alive – Springfield* (June-August); *Lincoln Civil War Days Reenactment – Lake Pittsfield* (June); *Lincoln in the District – Quincy* (June); *Lincoln's Festival on Route 66 – Bloomington* (July); and *Looking for Lincoln at the Illinois State Fair – Springfield* (August).

## ALNHA Highway Signage Program

A new highway signage program was implemented to mark the entry points to the 42-county Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area in Illinois. Designed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the signs are similar to those scattered throughout the United States denoting National Parks under the guardianship of the National Park Service. Located on both State and Federal highways, the signs outline the boundaries of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area to let travelers know they have entered a federally-designated heritage area.



## Passport to Your National Parks

Visitors to the ALNHA can now participate in the *Passport to Your National Parks* program as they explore the communities and landscapes of Lincoln's life in Illinois. Similar to an international passport and cancellation stamps given as travelers go from country to country, the passport program lets visitors record the name and date of all of the communities they visit for a lifetime keepsake record of their adventures in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Passport books are available for purchase in several National Heritage Area locations, with free cancellation stamps located throughout the LFL communities.

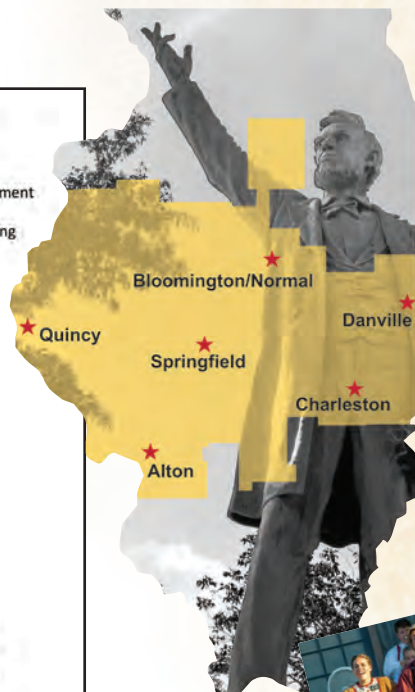
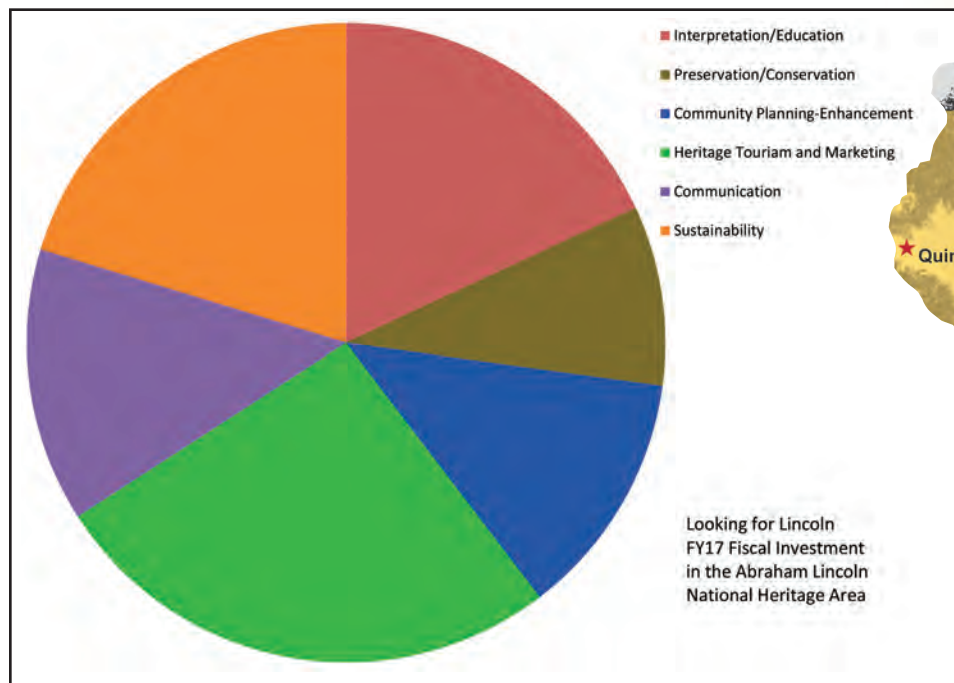
## A Look into the Future

- LFL Story Trail Expansion
- New ALNHA Travel Itineraries
- Additional Official LFL Communities
- LFL Bike Ride Thru the ALNHA
- Expanded Highway Signage Program

# Investing Today

## Preserving Lincoln's Legacy for the Future

### Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition FY17 Activity



### Investments Pay Economic Dividends

According to a 2017 Economic Impact Study\* conducted in five national heritage areas, through the development and promotion of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area as a viable tourism destination, the following results have been achieved:

- \$258.6 Million in Annual Visitor Economic Impact is realized
- 3,234 jobs are supported
- \$25.5 in tax revenue is generated

\*Study conducted by Tripp Umbach, on behalf of the National Park Service – Heritage Development Partnership



### Looking for Lincoln Endowment Fund Bequest Society

Keeping the legacy of Lincoln and the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area alive and flourishing for future generations is an integral part of the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition mission. The Looking for Lincoln

Bequest Society has been established to build an ongoing endowment fund to assist in this mission by recognizing individuals and families that have made provisions in their estate plans to bequeath assets to the Looking for Lincoln Endowment Fund. The Bequest Society will be publicized through the website, newsletters, social media and public relations efforts to encourage participation in this worthy endeavor.





## Stay Connected through Looking for Lincoln Online

Travelers, historians, students and the general public can easily stay in the loop as LFL continues to enhance and expand its efforts to link the hundreds of sites and communities

throughout the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area to share the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. For all the latest information on what's happening in the National Heritage Area, following us online is simple. From "live feed" historical reenactments on Twitter to special



giveaways and promotions via Facebook to YouTube videos from around the National Heritage Area, and up-to-date information, links and travel itineraries through the Looking for Lincoln official website ([lookingforlincoln.com](http://lookingforlincoln.com)) – Looking for Lincoln continues to work to keep the Lincoln legacy in the hearts and minds of people from around the world.

Follow us today!



[facebook.com/LookingforLincoln](https://facebook.com/LookingforLincoln)



[twitter.com/looking4lincoln](https://twitter.com/looking4lincoln)



[youtube.com/user/lookingforlincoln](https://youtube.com/user/lookingforlincoln)

[www.lookingforlincoln.com](http://www.lookingforlincoln.com)

## Partners in Preserving the Lincoln Legacy

Mr. Lincoln's words of farewell to Illinois in 1861 still resonate in our efforts to preserve his legacy today:

*To this place, and the kindness of these people....we owe everything.*

So, it is with much gratitude that we thank our many partners who continue to help us in our mission to preserve the Lincoln legacy and to share the rich Lincoln history of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area with the world.

Sincerely,

*The Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition*

