

Bays Mtn Museum Grant:

*Mission Statement:*

The Bays Mountain Park Farmstead Museum is a haven where the present meets history. Nestled within the picturesque landscape of Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium Kingsport, Tennessee, the Farmstead museum's mission is to preserve and share the rich heritage of Bays Mountain and the surrounding region.

Rooted in a history that dates back generations, the museum serves as a tribute to the enduring spirit of homesteading and farming that has shaped the very fabric of this land. With a commitment to nature conservation, the museum strives to offer a window into sustainable practices of the past.

Visitors wandering through the exhibits uncover the stories of those who carved a life from the land, celebrating the ingenuity and resilience of our ancestors. The curated collection of farm relics, including plows, tools and home goods, offers a connection to the past, while vividly showcasing the evolution of agricultural practices in this rugged terrain.

Beyond being a repository of historical artifacts, the Bays Mountain Park Farmstead Museum stands as a beacon of education and tourism. The park invites visitors from near and far to explore the heart of Appalachian history, learn from the land, and gain a deeper appreciation for the cultural tapestry woven by generations past.

Through guided tours, interactive workshops, and engaging exhibitions, the museum aims to inspire a renewed sense of stewardship for our natural surroundings. The Farmstead museum promises an enriching experience that bridges the gap between the past and the modern world.

The legacy of Bays Mountain Park echoes a resounding call to safeguard our heritage, embrace sustainable practices, and foster a lasting bond between humans and the land we call home.

*Description of Capital Maintenance or Improvement Project 2000 words:*

First of all, a proper drainage system is required due to the terrain and elevation of the cabin's location. This will prevent water intrusion into the building and protect the assets within. The drainage will also prevent mud and water accumulation providing a safer entrance for guests. The improvements will also allow for disabled parking onto a hard top surface with accessibility features to allow for access to both the main entrance and second floor of the exhibit.

Secondly, the cabin was assembled in 1988 without consideration of accessibility. To ensure that the Farmstead museum is accessible to visitors of all ages and abilities, steps are required to provide a more universal design and the overall experience of guests. Features such as a wheel chair lift, ADA bathroom, and entrances from a hard top surface will create a welcoming environment, allowing patrons to explore the museum grounds comfortably. Additionally, ADA access throughout the museum, ensures that everyone can immerse themselves in the wonders of history and nature without limitations.

*How will this project further your organization's mission? \* 750 words*

In 1988, the Bays Mountain Park built the Harry V. Steadman Mountain Heritage Farmstead Museum, with the goal of depicting the social and natural history and way of life for "People of the Bays." The goal of the Farmstead Museum is to show life as it was in rural Appalachia. The museum stands as a living testament to the grit and determination of the people of Bays Mountain. It honors community leader Harry V. Steadman's legacy, as well as all those who toiled at the earth upon the mountain to scratch out a living for their families.

Bays Mountain Park attracts over 200,000 visitors per year, but sadly not everyone can share in the same experience. Accessibility and a mountainous terrain make visiting the Farmstead museum unattainable for people with mobility issues. The park realizes its role and responsibility to the public by providing amenities that are equally accessible to all guests.

The suggested capital project will help preserve the Farmstead museum for future generations. Much needed upgrades are implicit to the future success of the museum and its programs. Accessibility for all, also honors the spirit and history of Bays Mountain Park and will allow everyone to learn of the Mountain's rich heritage.

*Describe how you measure success:*

Success will initially be measured by the successful completion of the capital improvements outlined in the grant application.

Secondly, the project's success will be gauged through metrics such as increased numbers of visitors, enhanced visitor satisfaction, and broader community engagement. By offering an inclusive space that caters to diverse audiences, the Farmstead Museum has the potential to attract an extensive range of visitors, fostering a sense of pride and ownership within the community.