

Be a Heritage Steward in the Mosby Heritage Area!

What can you do to make a difference? What can you do to save some "sense of place" and learn to truly love our area?

- 1. Come to a Mosby Heritage Area program at Atoka.** For students, our most popular program series is called *Legends by Lanternlight*. It is a lantern-light living history program that takes you back to the days of Mosby and is designed for you and your parents. In period dress, people from the past—members of our Mosby Heritage Area Interpretive Group--will share what they saw, what they thought, and what they felt during the Civil War. We offer this program 4-6 times per year at different historic sites in the Mosby Heritage Area, shuffling between Clarke, Fauquier, and Loudoun. Check out our web site www.mosbyheritagearea.org under "Special Events" or check out the Mosby Heritage Area Association FACEBOOK page for the dates, times, and locations.
- 2. Go for a ride in the Mosby Heritage Area where you live.** Sunday afternoons and summer evenings with your family, get to know what's beyond your immediate area. Yes, *explore!* What scenic and historic treasures grace the back roads and highways of Loudoun, Fauquier, western Prince William, and Clarke counties? In order to *care* about this region, you have to know what there is to care about—and *what's happening to it*. You'll find some very special places to enjoy and show off! **The Mosby Heritage Area has driving tours available on our web site** (www.mosbyheritagearea.org) for you. So, *talk to your parents!* ["Say, Dad, say Mom, want to go exploring?"]
- 3. Explore your county's heritage with your parents using one of our fun SCAVENGER HUNTS (also on our web site).** Visit the historic and natural sites in your county! If you live in Loudoun, Clarke, or Fauquier counties, try out our SCAVENGER HUNTS—each is a guide to some of the best historic sites in the area. If you complete the scavenger hunt, you get a free "Got Mosby? No—Mosby's Got You!" t-shirt, or one that urges people to "Scout the Mosby Heritage Area. *Feeling and understanding* the past of your county gives you a *sense of place*, of being a part of something going on a *long* time. Not everyone has that.



5. **Find out what happened *close to your home!*** If you are new to the area, this may take a visit to the local museum in the county seat, the local library for a talk with the librarian, or asking neighbors or friends at church or work, or just looking around for historical markers. Have you noticed the silver and black state historical markers, or the buff, blue, and red Virginia Civil War Trails markers? Do an Internet search of that event. There is nothing “cooler” than finding out that something *important* or *memorable* happened *right within walking distance* of your house. When grandma or grandpa visit, share it!
6. **Play with our “Hunting the Gray Ghost” interactive map!** We have great photos, great stories, and you can see how close they are to you on the Mosby Heritage Area’s interactive “Gray Ghost” map. Learn about the absorbing story of John S. Mosby and the Civil War, the “Mosby” in the Mosby Heritage Area. See our web site, www.mosbyheritagearea.org, and look under “John S. Mosby”.
7. **Join a local historical organization, or one devoted to preserving the natural, historic, or architectural features of your county.** Are you new to this area? *Do you have any idea how starved for volunteers the local organizations in this region are?* This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved, meet new friends, and make a worthwhile contribution to your community. The Mosby Heritage Area Association would be happy to have you. Visit our web site at www.mosbyheritagearea.org. We have links to the websites of other local historical sites you might like to work with.
8. **Do a project for your community.** To keep your community and county special, consider working with friends and adults on a trash pickup during the spring, or working with an historical site to volunteer. They often have projects they’d love for an interested student to get involved in. Don’t be afraid to ask.
9. **Talk with the older people in your neighborhood and in your family about the way things were *so you know.*** The oldest people you know have seen things that will *amaze* you. It is by telling stories to the young that the story of the *real* past is passed along.
10. **READ!** At historic sites you can pick up great books for students of all ages and on-line just plug in whatever you are interested in (“Mosby” or “The Civil War in Loudoun County” or “Slavery in Fauquier County”) let’s say, and all kind of good reading comes up!
11. **CARE!** Yes, when you live in an area as special as the Mosby Heritage Area, *you* are a STEWARD of a key piece of our nation’s heritage. It becomes *your* job while living here to know what’s going on such that *the rest of the nation’s* children inherit the important historic and natural resources that were left to *you*.

