

# Storytelling Brings Generations Together



All generations need to pass on the knowledge they inherit from their families. They must have all the stories about their past, so their children understand their roots and embrace their identity. By focusing on their real history, rather than media characterizations of their heritage, they will have something of value to offer those who come after them.

Using a Web-based [tool](#), Americans All encourages people to record, share and archive [legacy stories](#) to demonstrate their ethnic, cultural and/or civic pride for the benefit of family, friends, associates and future generations. We invest more than half of our membership revenue to promote storytelling for legacy preservation and to

improve K–12 social studies instruction at no cost to schools.

The history of our nation is deeply tied to [immigration](#), and ancestors of all Americans came here from diverse locations. Legacy stories reveal these experiences and offer insight, helping to make history come alive for today's students. Moreover, by researching and writing their own story or by helping others do so, students will build the communication skills they need to succeed in college and/or the workforce.

We urge you to ensure the knowledge left to you and others is not lost forever. [Create a story now](#) to preserve this legacy for your family and future generations.



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# Program Summary

Leveraging the public's interest in legacy preservation provides the funds we need to continue our education mission. The history of our nation is deeply tied to [immigration](#), and ancestors of all Americans came here from diverse locations. [Legacy stories](#) share these experiences and offer insight, helping to make history come alive for today's students.

Moreover, by researching and writing their own story or by helping others do so, students will build the communication skills they need to succeed in college and/or the workforce.

Our easy-to-use templates help individuals and groups inexpensively create their legacy stories in multiple languages with text, photos, home videos and audio recordings. A portion of the online story can be password protected, and a shorter version can be printed to fit an 8½" x 11" format. The one-time, tax-deductible cost for an Americans All membership is just \$49.00 (\$24.50 using a 50 percent [Legacy Partner](#) discount code). Members also receive free access to our high-quality [social studies](#) resources (a \$500 value), which are being used in more than 2,000 schools and libraries nationwide. [Tutorials](#) help members set up a user account and create a legacy story.

The legacy stories are published on our Web-based [Heritage Honor Roll](#). Our Legacy Partners are entities whose missions reinforce our goals.

They include families; schools; religious groups; education organizations such as museums and historical societies; and local, regional and/or national groups, businesses and organizations. Legacy Partners participate in our program at no cost because they host Heritage Honor Roll legacy stories to give them more exposure. Partners can have more than one Americans All home page, and individuals and groups can share their stories on

as many home pages as they desire. Schools and education organizations receive a free Heritage Honor Roll legacy story because they can share content to support social studies instruction. Legacy stories created by Americans All members can also be found by using major [search engines](#).

Believing education is a lifelong process, we offer members a free 3-month subscription to our Social Legacy Network for additional benefits. After the trial period, the cost is \$4 per month. Included in the subscription is [CollegeSave](#), under which families receive 250 points each month (each point is worth

\$1 in discounts) and can earn up to \$52,000 in college tuition discounts at more than 385 participating colleges in 45 states nationwide. These discount points can be used for children, grandchildren and extended family members. In 2017, students submitted rewards points worth more than \$80.1 million in tuition discounts at participating colleges.

**Americans All Program (one-time \$24.50 fee) and Social Legacy Network Membership Benefits\***

Online version

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www.americansall.org/node/226256

\*\$4 Monthly Upgrade for Social Legacy Network

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[www.americansall.org/videos](http://www.americansall.org/videos)

## Benefits of Storytelling and Americans All to Students

Storytelling affords students both academic and personal benefits.

- Stories begin at birth, and *legacies* are built each time a personal, academic or professional milestone is achieved. Every student has important experiences and lessons learned to share with family, friends and future generations. Creating and publishing a [story](#) about themselves helps students develop skills in critical thinking, communicating, researching and, especially, writing—skills needed to help ensure their success in college and/or the workforce.
- By learning to use concise language and enhancing stories with photographs and other media, students can record important events and memories as well as share their pride in their ethnic and cultural identity.
- Publishing a legacy story on our Web-based [Heritage Honor Roll](#) ensures the significance of a lifetime will not be forgotten and enables students to have a permanent and an accessible social media presence that truly describes who they are.
- Storytelling can also be a wonderful intergenerational bonding experience that builds empathy, compassion and understanding.
- By helping others less skilled in the art of writing and the use of technology to incorporate images and recordings into their legacy stories, a student can earn [service-learning](#) credits.
- Helping others create and enhance a story also demonstrates to prospective employers and postsecondary institutions a student's character and appreciation for how volunteerism benefits a community.

Students joining Americans All get electronic access to our high-quality social studies [classroom resources](#) (a \$500 value) to help them complete homework assignments and special projects.

Believing education is a lifelong process, we offer members a free 3-month subscription to our [Social Legacy Network](#) to receive even more benefits. After the trial period, the cost is \$4 per month. Included in the subscription is [CollegeSave](#), under which families receive 250 points each month (each point is worth \$1 in discounts) and can earn up to \$52,000 in college tuition discounts at more than 385 participating colleges in 45 states nationwide. These discount points can be used for children, grandchildren and extended family members. [In 2017, students submitted rewards points worth more than \\$80.1 million in tuition discounts at participating colleges.](#)

## Benefits of Storytelling and Americans All to Schools

Schools participate in Americans All for free because they reinforce our goals of creating and sharing legacy stories and supporting excellence in social studies instruction. In addition, they can:

- Easily provide opportunities—in many subject areas—for students to create legacy stories, without changing established classroom lesson plans or instructional practices.
- Receive a free story on their school that is published on our Heritage Honor Roll.
- Host, on their free Americans All [Legacy Partner](#) home page(s), stories from our Heritage Honor Roll about their students and staff as well as stories created by their students doing volunteer work.
- Allow students to receive credit for volunteer activities that have an academic component. [Students do not have to join Americans All to earn service-learning credits.]
- Make students and their families aware of the academic and personal benefits of participating in our [program](#).