



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Melissa Gavilanes, Director of Education
Thomas Cole National Historic Site
218 Spring Street, PO Box 426
Catskill, NY 12414
education@thomascole.org
www.thomascole.org

Thomas Cole Historic Site and The Olana Partnership win National Grant *Funds will pay for transportation costs for field trips for local 4th graders to these historic sites*

Catskill and Hudson, NY— The National Park Foundation awarded a \$9,000 grant to Thomas Cole National Historic Site and The Olana Partnership to pay for the transportation costs for 4th graders from local public schools to visit these two historic sites.

To support the White House youth initiative Every Kid in a Park, the National Park Foundation awarded transportation grants to historic sites to remove barriers to accessing our nation's public lands and waters. With cutbacks in school funding for field trips, this strategic funding will help provide comprehensive access to all federal sites, including national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and public lands and waters to support projects where the arts engage people with memorable places and landscapes.

"Thomas Cole Site is so pleased that we have been awarded this grant," said Director of Education, Melissa Gavilanes. "It will allow numerous schools to visit our sites and it will engage the young students in these special places that are such an important part of the American experience."

"As Olana celebrates its 50th anniversary and the National Park Service observes its centennial, we want young people to remember that our cultural and natural treasures shape our identity and remind us of the values our founding citizens held. Visiting the Thomas Cole Historic Site and Frederic Church's Olana can be part of shaping America's future as much as it is about learning about history," said Amy Hufnagel, Director of Education of The Olana Partnership. "It is a pleasure to work with Ms. Gavilanes and all the Thomas Cole Site's staff to share an important teacher/student story with young people."

The grants are for transportation costs only and will be available on a first come, first served basis. Fourth grade teachers from public schools interested in participating should contact Melissa Gavilanes at education@thomascole.org or Amy Hufnagel at AHufnagel@olana.org or 518-828-1872 x105.

About the Thomas Cole National Historic Site

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is the place where American art began, as it is the home of Thomas Cole (1801-1848), the founder of the Hudson River School – the first major art movement of the United States. Cole's landscape paintings encompassed a new-found awe for the majesty of the American landscape, and they

sparked the longest-running art movement in American history, including more than 100 artists in the period between 1825 and about 1870. Today, the National Historic Site welcomes thousands of visitors each year. Thomas Cole's original easels and art-making tools are on view in his "Old Studio", and a film about Cole and the Hudson River School can be seen in the visitor center. Visitors especially enjoy the panoramic view from the west porch to the Catskill Mountains, which remains strikingly similar to Thomas Cole's paintings of the same view. Current programs and events can be found on the website, www.thomascole.org.

About Olana and The Olana Partnership

The eminent Hudson River School painter Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900) designed Olana, his family home, studio, and estate, as an environment integrating architecture, art, landscape, and conservation ideals. Considered one of the most important artistic residences in the United States, Olana is a 250-acre artist-designed landscape with a Persian-inspired house at its summit, embracing unrivaled panoramic views of the vast Hudson Valley.

Olana State Historic Site, a historic site administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Taconic Region, is a designated National Historic Landmark and one of the most visited sites in the state. The Olana Partnership, a private not-for-profit education corporation, works cooperatively with New York State to support the restoration, development and improvement of Olana State Historic Site. 2016 will mark the 50th anniversary of this public/private partnership. To learn more about Olana and The Olana Partnership, please visit www.olana.org.

Follow Thomas Cole Site on Twitter @ThomasColeSite, Instagram #thomascolesite and Facebook
Follow Olana Historic Site on Twitter @OSHSite, Instagram and Facebook

Contact: Melissa Gavilanes, Director of Education
Thomas Cole National Historic Site
218 Spring Street, PO Box 426
Catskill, NY 12414
education@thomascole.org
www.thomascole.org

Contact: Amy Hufnagel, Director of Education
The Olana Partnership
P.O. Box 199
Hudson, New York 12534
518-828-1872 x105
AHufnagel@olana.org
www.olana.org

###