Local Youth to Collaborate with Smithsonian for

Traveling Exhibition about [Rural Life or Water]

 *[Organization Name] Selected for Smithsonian Educational Initiative*

[Host organization] announced today that it has been selected to create one of twenty projects nationwide for the Smithsonian’s *Stories: YES* program. The program is a collaboration between youth and [Host organization] to develop stories around the theme of the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibition [“Crossroads: Change in Rural American” or “Water/Ways”], which will be on display [Dates].

*Stories: YES* participants weave national narratives from the exhibition into the history of their own community by conducting research and interviews **to produce a nonfiction story about their hometown. The program engages them with regional history and contemporary local issues, while providing an opportunity to use professional equipment and learn real-world skills. Youth projects will be displayed locally and their digital stories will be shared on Museum on Main Street’s website at** <https://museumonmainstreet.org/>**. [Organization] will keep the equipment purchased through the program and continue to make it available for student access.**

 [Insert description of organization managing project and partnerships.]

Funding for *Stories: YES* is generously provided to Museum on Main Street (MoMS) with internal Smithsonian Institution support from the Smithsonian Youth Access Grants Program. MoMS is a partnership between the Smithsonian institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and state humanities councils. It was created to serve museums, libraries and historical societies in rural areas, where one-fifth of all Americans live. SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for over 65 years. It connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. For more information, including exhibition descriptions and tour schedules, visit [www.sites.si.edu](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CShannon%5CDesktop%5CYAG%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CDocuments%20and%20Settings%5Cschommerj%5CLocal%20Settings%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CJ74X3Q7F%5Cwww.sites.si.edu).