



Smithsonian Institution

MUSEUM on Main Street

State Coordinator Stories from Main Street

What Is It?

Museum on Main Street's **Stories from Main Street** initiative collects stories from people all of the United States, particularly from small. Museum on Main Street host states and host communities can contribute content from their own areas. The project website at www.museumonmainstreet.org provides a place where the Smithsonian, state humanities councils, host organizations, and the general public work together to create a home for important stories, images, oral histories, and videos that document life in our small towns and rural communities.

This website is for **you**. Local museums, historical societies, libraries and the public are encouraged to tell the Smithsonian about their unique experiences in America's small and rural communities and share photographs, recordings and videos to help us all learn what's special about your town.

Why Do We Collect Your Stories?

While the Smithsonian is considered a respected and credible authority on many topics, we believe that the best way to tell the story of life in rural America is to hear from the very people who live in small towns across the country.

In this way, our story-collecting initiative began with a desire to hear authentic stories and interpretations from Americans—with the ultimate goal of documenting life in nearly every pocket of United States and its territories.

We believe that the American people—their photos, their voices, their stories—represent an important and often untapped source of inspiration for this generation and for generations to come.

What Kinds of Stories Does the Initiative Collect?

We're specifically interested in stories that highlight important traditions in small towns and rural areas. Tell us more about what makes your community unique. What are the traditions passed down through generations in foodways, music, sports and local values?

Stories could reflect questions like:

- What is unique about your small town?
- What was your first job? What did you learn from it?
- What did you experience growing up in a rural area?
- What is your favorite story about fishing in or near a small town?
- What does the land surrounding your community mean to you?
- How do people in your community rally around local sports teams?
- What's your favorite dish that a relative taught you to make?



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Do you have photos or interviews that help tell these stories? Those would be great things to add to the website. Remember, you can post a photograph, video, or record your story on audio or video and upload your creation.

Where Will the Stories Be Shared?

Stories contributed to the project are reviewed and considered for a spot on the website. Our partnering humanities councils, Museum on Main Street host organizations, and participating schools can use the stories, images, and videos they have uploaded to create online exhibitions that allow them to tell the whole story.

Need More Information?

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