



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission
Let Freedom Ring
Frequently Asked Questions

Why commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial?

Arkansas’s commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial will culminate in April by acknowledging the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery and involuntary servitude. Arkansas ratified the amendment on April 14, 1865.

On April 14, 2015 at 1 p.m., the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission (ACWSC) will lead a statewide “Let Freedom Ring” bell peal to recognize the state’s ratification of the 13th Amendment. Communities across the state are invited to celebrate the end of slavery by ringing bells of any kind 13 times at the appointed 13:00 hour (1 p.m.).

How can my school or organization participate?

Schools or organizations can participate by bringing bells to Little Rock and joining the “Let Freedom Ring” celebration on the steps of the Arkansas State Capitol. Can’t make it to the State Capitol? Host your own “Let Freedom Ring” event in your community. Download the sign-up form (Include link to PDF) and return to mark@arkansasheritage.org.

What type of bells can participate?

All bells are welcome! From handbells and church bells to bicycle bells and even cow bells, all shapes and sizes can participate in ringing in freedom 13 times at the 13:00 hour on April 14.

How can I help promote my community or organization’s participation of Let Freedom Ring?

All supporting documents, such as a sign-up form and media advisory/promotion kit are available on ArkansasCivilWar150.com.

How can I contact ACWSC?

For further information about the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission or Let Freedom Ring, contact Mark Christ, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program community outreach director, at mark@arkansasheritage.org or call 501-324-9886.

Arkansas Arts Council

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Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

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Delta Cultural Center

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Historic Arkansas Museum

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Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

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Old State House Museum



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