

Section I

- a. Susan Lanning, President/CEO
PO Box 347
Greenville, TX 75403
(903) 450-4502
amacm@att.net
- b. Audie Murphy / American Cotton Museum
PO Box 347
Greenville, TX 75403

Section II

- a. Purpose of Organization.

The purpose and mission of the Audie Murphy / American Cotton Museum is two-fold. It serves as a source of public information and education about the history and impact of cotton production and manufacture in the United States in general and the Northern Blackland Prairie region in particular. The important role of cotton in building the American free enterprise system is also explored.

The Museum is also intent in fostering an understanding and appreciation of the life, times, and heroic deeds of Audie Leon Murphy. He was a native son of Hunt County, Texas who received the Congressional Medal of Honor and became the most decorated hero of World War II. This purpose extends to fostering an appreciation for the heroic actions of thousands of American men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in a free and democratic nation.

The Museum advances its mission by preserving the economic, cultural, and natural history of Hunt County, Texas. This role includes the preservation and interpretation of historic structures owned and/or operated by the Museum, and the acquisition and preservation of artifacts and information for public display, scientific research, and academic study.

Section III

- a. Description of proposed educational program.

The Audie Murphy / American Cotton Museum is proposing to have two Family Fun Day programs in 2008 that is free for the entire family. These educational programs will be geared towards children with the active participation of their parents. Each program will have a different theme that relates to the mission of the museum. The program in the spring will relate to the crafts, games, and activities that were done during the World War II era while the program in the fall will revolve around cotton and the 1800s.

The Museum just had its first Family Fun Day program this fall. It was a wonderful success with over 200 people participating. Children learned how to play old-fashioned games like marbles, jacks, nine pins and hopscotch. They also made crafts at different stations much like children of the 1800s would have created. In addition to worry dolls and corn husk dolls, they made wristbands and bracelets from small looms and made covered wagons out of construction paper. Everyone, both children and adults, enjoyed learning how to spindle cotton and write their names with goose quill feathers using home-made ink made out of blueberries.

We are anticipating the programs to continue to grow with each successive event. The response and turnout to this first program was amazing and we were often asked when the next one was going to be held. New and different activities and crafts will be a part of every program so each event will be unique and different in some way. One of the new things we would like to add next year is to have a storyteller as part of both programs.

b. Proposed program participants.

The Family Fun Day programs will focus primarily on reaching children between the ages of five and twelve. We purposely try to make the activities, games and crafts range from easy to difficult so all of the children will be able to complete at least some of the crafts and games with minimal assistance. At the same time we also make sure there are some challenging crafts and games for the older children and for children who like to be challenged.

To create successful Family Day Programs the Audie Murphy / American Cotton Museum will draw upon its cadre of volunteers and board members who will help operate all of the stations. The Museum will also be looking for additional volunteers through the nearby University in Commerce and the Junior College in Greenville.

c. Proposed program budget.

The following is the proposed program budget for both Family Day Programs.

Educational Supplies	\$900
Storytellers	\$400
Printing & Distribution of flyers	<u>\$200</u>
Total	\$1,500

d. Proposed deliverables.

The goal of having Family Fun Day programs is to give children and families the opportunity to have fun and be creative at the same time that they are learning about history. With these programs the Museum is working to reach out to people in the community who have never been to the Museum or who do not

think going to a museum and learning about history is “fun”. We have already seen success in achieving these objectives with the first program that was recently done. The majority of the children and families who came had never been to the Museum before and did not previously realize how much fun they could have by going to a history museum.

e. Proposed schedule.

The Audie Murphy / American Cotton Museum is planning on having the spring World War II era themed program in the beginning of June and the fall 1800s themed program in the beginning of November of 2008.