

The Easton Oral History Project

Guidelines for Participants

Overview

Students in Grades 5 & up will be paired up with longtime residents of Easton. The students will interview the longtime residents, either by phone, Zoom or similar platform, or face-to-face. Students who wish to participate must submit a signed parent/guardian permission form. The interviewee will complete and sign a release form, giving permission for the interview to be archived by the Library and published in various media outlets (Easton Courier, Hello Easton, etc.).

Interview Process

Students and longtime residents who have expressed interest in participating will be contacted by a Library staff member, who will assign partners and review the logistics. Interviewers and interviewees will be given each other's contact information. They should set up a mutually exclusive time to conduct the interview and decide on the format. In advance of the interview, they should decide on a topic or theme for the interview, as well as a time limit. The interviewee should also communicate any areas that he/she does not want to address. The interviewer should then compile a list of questions and share them with the interviewee prior to the interview. Also, prior to the interview, the interviewer should test out any audio/video equipment (phone, computer, etc.) to make sure it is working properly.

The interview itself should be conversational in style. The interviewer should stick to the agreed-upon questions, but should also feel free to take his/her cues from the interviewee to go off-script and ask follow-up questions as necessary. At the beginning of the interview, both participants should state their name, age, and the date. If it is an in-person interview, the participants should take a photo together and submit that to the Library along with the interview.

Examples of Interview Questions

- Who was been the most important person in your life? Why?
- What was the happiest memory of your life here in Easton?
- Who has been the biggest influence on your life?
- How long have you lived in Easton?
- How has it changed?
- What is the best part about Easton?
- What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?
- What is your earliest memory?
- Why did you move to Easton?
- Are there any funny stories your family tells about you that come to mind?
- How did you meet your spouse?
- What lessons have you learned from your relationships?
- What do you do for a living? How did you get into your line of work?
- What did you think you were going to be when you grew up?
- What is your vision of Easton in the future?

Examples of Follow-up Questions

- How did that make you feel?
- What happened next?
- Can you give me an example?
- What were you thinking when that happened?
- Is there anything else you'd like to add? (ask at end of interview)

Contact

If you are interested in participating, email Kevin Krug at kevink@eastonlibrary.org with your name and contact information (and please indicate whether you are a student or adult).

For questions about interview pairings or the interview process, email Ryan Tice at rtice@eastonlibrary.org.

For technical issues, email Debby Holland at dholland@eastonlibrary.org.

Completed interviews and other submissions should be sent to eastonorahistoryproject@gmail.com