

Foxfire COVID-19 Oral History Project

Project Description

In an effort to capture this unique moment in history (Coronavirus outbreak, 2019-2020), Foxfire will launch a campaign to collect oral histories via crowdsourcing. The project will run from approximately March 23, 2020 to April 30, 2020. The project will solicit self-recorded testimonies from individuals, families, or groups located within Southern Appalachia. Using digital technologies will support quarantine efforts, but attempt to cross barriers imposed by “social distancing.” It will also contribute to the historical record, and provide early records of the event. A follow-up capture of oral histories will take place in summer/fall 2020.

How to Participate

We want to hear from you! If you live in Central/Southern Appalachia, or are from the region (West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama), consider sharing your experiences with the COVID-19 outbreak and craze through a self-recorded oral history. We are looking for testimonies/oral histories related to the virus.

Participation is easy. Simply consider the questions included in this document and reflect on our recent experiences. Then, record yourself (on your phone, on your computer, etc.) speaking about those experiences. Feel free to have family members or close friends join you in a conversation. (See following pages for instructions with multiple individuals). Recordings up to 25 minutes will be accepted. Anything past this time length will not be accepted.

Once you’ve recorded, make sure your audio file is a .mp3 or .wav. These are the only file types that will be accepted. Compress file and email to asstcurator@foxfire.org with subject heading “COVID-19 OH Project Submission.” In your email, include completed release form and additional information form.

File Guidelines

- Audio files must not exceed 25 minutes in length
- Only .mp3 and .wav files will be accepted
- Rename file with following format: COVID19 OH_LastName_FirstName

Recording with Multiple People

- Before beginning discussion, have each individual state their name. This helps us identify who is speaking when.
- While recording, be sure to not speak over one another. Allow each person time to finish their sentence before starting.
- Make sure that each person is equal distance from the recording device. Listen to audio after it's recorded. Can you hear each person clearly? If not, re-record so that everyone can be heard.
- Up to two (2) 25-minute-long audio files will be accepted for group conversations.
- Each person included in audio must fill out their own release form. These all need to be submitted with the audio files at one time.

Some Questions to Get You Started:

- Describe the community where you live
- When did you first learn about the coronavirus? What were your initial reactions?
- During the first two weeks of March, how did your opinion or feelings about the virus change?
- How did your community respond to the virus? Did they implement any business/social/educational/financial closures or restrictions?
- Describe any events you witnessed that capture your or your community's response to the virus. (example: a trip to the store, school closing, a conversation with friends)
- How are you responding to the virus?
- How is your response affecting time with family and loved ones?
- How do you think the virus will impact Appalachia in the upcoming months?