

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 through the end of 2020, with possible extension. The project will solicit self-recorded testimonies, written statements or journal entries, photographs, and videos 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.

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, journal entry, or visual media. 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 your recent experiences. If you choose to submit an oral history, 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.

For written entries, please submit as a word document. For multiple photographs, videos, or documents, please compress into a zipped file before sending.

Email submissions to asstcurator@foxfire.org with subject heading “COVID-19 OH Project Submission.” In your email, include completed release form and additional information form.

*Release form must be completed regardless of type of media submitted!

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?
- How has your opinion or feelings about the virus change since you first learned about it?
- 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?
- What lasting impact did quarantine make on your lifestyle or your attitude? How has social distancing changed your life?
- How do you think the virus will impact Appalachia in the future? How has it already impacted Appalachia?
- What permanent changes do you expect to see in our society and culture?