



**Tangible Horizons, Inc.** offers genealogical research programs/workshops that are available to families, schools, churches, corporations, and other organizations. The purpose of this program is to educate participants about the importance of *discovering from whence they came*.

The intrinsic value of one's heritage goes far beyond words or description. By connecting to one's past, every individual has the opportunity to make informed choices about the present, as well as the opportunity to prepare wisely for their future. One's self-esteem is taken to the next level.

Appreciation for the ancestors, as they endured through historical adversities, is a direct benefit to the descendants of these heroic men and women. Everyone can take pride in knowing that the same strength lies within and any goal is attainable because of that inner power.

**TREE T. O. P. S.** is an introductory program that is offered to students from 2<sup>nd</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grades. Sessions are presented in two groups: ages 7-12 (grades 2 through 6), and ages 13-16 (grades 7 through 10), at their curriculum levels. They will actively participate in class discussions, presentations, as well as interactive and individual tasks, allowing every student the opportunity to express and sharpen learning skill sets.



The **TREE T. O. P. S.** program is organized into four one-hour sessions. It is designed to teach students how to research and cultivate their individual family trees. Each student will start by filling in a three-generation family chart, containing the names, birthdates, birthplaces, and other pertinent information about their parents, their four grandparents, and themselves.

During the first session titled, **TIMELINE**, each student will populate a 100-year graph of their family history from 1940 to 2040 using their own artistic and scholastic expressions. Family participation is encouraged, as students must rely on parents, grandparents, and others to gather past family information. The distant future information will focus on each student's aspirations. Other activities include an exercise in sign language used to define a timeline, and an interactive silent activity called The Human Timeline, which is an exercise in non-verbal group communication.

**ONCE upon a time** is the second session in which each student will have the opportunity to write a one-page story about a particular event in his/her life. Each story must be true, it must contain a lesson learned, and it must be encouraging and positive. All participants will have the privilege of presenting their stories before the group, and each will have the opportunity to hear the stories of the others.



**a time to PLANT is** the third session, which is a laboratory period. Each student will plant a seed and follow the growth process over a 15-day period. Soil, seeds, and styrofoam cups are provided for the students. They will keep a journal and record the growth process of their plants, which may include photographs and other observations. Simultaneously, while the seed grows into a plant, the origin of each student's name is researched. When completed, each student receives a banner, containing the origin, meaning, and character qualities of their first name. Students are encouraged to share this information with the group.

**a time to SOW Self-Esteem** is the final session of the **TREE T. O. P. S.** program. Each student is given the opportunity to present the findings of their family history research, and to share with the group the value they received during the research process. Self-respect, and respect for others is the motivation for this session.

As this is a learning environment, each session offers grade-appropriate evaluations specifically focusing on the topics of each workshop. The treetops are the students, from which the program gets its name. Ancestry awareness empowers students with a sense of dignity, pride and self-esteem that fuels their burning desire for knowledge and education.