



www.majortaylorassociation.org
Major Taylor Association, Inc.
PO Box 20131, Worcester, MA 01602

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The nonprofit Major Taylor Association is seeking a social studies teacher to write a high school history unit with a week's worth of lesson plans to add to its free downloadable Major Taylor curriculum guide.

The teacher selected by the MTA board of directors will be paid a stipend of \$2,500 to write the unit overview, teachers' guide and lesson plans and assemble accompanying teacher/classroom resources during summer 2011 and will be supplied with background materials to keep, including a copy of Major Taylor's autobiography and at least two modern-day biographies.

Major Taylor, aka "the Worcester Whirlwind," went up against Jim Crow racial prejudice to become 1899 world bicycling champion. He was the second African-American athlete in any sport to win a world title. This one-page mini-biography serves as a quick introduction to Major Taylor's story:

www.majortaylorassociation.org/whirlwind-flier.pdf

Major Taylor lived from 1878 to 1932, and his bicycle racing career spanned the years 1895 to 1910. Relevant topics in U.S. history and American studies include the Plessy v. Ferguson ruling and Jim Crow segregation; the 1890s bicycling boom and the role of sports in society; the bicycle boom and women's emancipation; the Great Migration of blacks within the United States; racial attitudes abroad (Major Taylor's career took him to Europe and Australia for extended periods); technological progress including the advent of airplanes and automobiles; and the contrasting influences of Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois on black advancement and race relations. Worcester's place in all of the above is pertinent.

The existing curriculum guide, last updated in 2005 and mostly geared to Grades 3-4 and Grades 5-8, is online at www.majortaylorassociation.org/mtcurric.shtml, and an announcement about the 2005 update is at www.majortaylorassociation.org/news.shtml#guide

The updated curriculum guide will remain free to teachers everywhere via download from www.majortaylorassociation.org. Among elements of the new component:

- The high school unit will contain lesson plans for one week (five days) of classes, but will allow teachers anywhere to pick and choose as much or as little of the unit as fits their own course, time frame and curriculum.
- The unit must align with Massachusetts curriculum frameworks and specify the relevant framework(s) for all grade levels.
- The unit will include an overview for teachers summarizing the significance of Major Taylor's story in the study of U.S. history.
- The unit will include a teachers' guide that covers guiding questions, learning objectives, teaching approaches, possible ways to assess student understanding of the material, and any background material relevant for teachers.
- The unit will include materials such as reading selections and worksheets, and a list of resources, including primary and secondary sources, for teachers and students, with Internet links where applicable.

DEADLINE: Interested teachers are asked to submit proposals by **May 20** via e-mail to info@majortaylorassociation.org or via postal mail to the address above. Proposals may be in the form of a letter with attachments.

Your proposal should include:

- Your resume or curriculum vitae
- A general description of the course you teach or expect to teach that could include the Major Taylor unit you develop. Include grade level(s), honors or AP designation, the period of history and themes or topics covered, and any special characteristics, such as team teaching or multidisciplinary elements.
- Themes and topics you would address in the Major Taylor unit.
- A general description of the approaches to learning that you would use in the Major Taylor unit and the skills that students would employ.
- A summary of a lesson plan that you have used with success that might serve as a template for a lesson plan in the Major Taylor unit you develop, and an explanation of how and why it worked well in your classroom.

The grant will be awarded by June 4. The selected teacher must submit a rough draft of the curriculum unit by July 15 and the completed curriculum unit by August 26, 2011.

Contact:

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