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## **President Lincoln's Cottage Kicks-Off Students Opposing Slavery Project** *High school students are invited to register for the inaugural SOS International Summit.*

**Washington, D.C.** – President Lincoln's Cottage, the “Cradle of the Emancipation Proclamation,” is launching a youth anti-slavery project that will give a new generation of abolitionists the resources and training to take action against modern slavery. Students Opposing Slavery (SOS) is a student initiative dedicated to involving teens in the fight against human trafficking. The SOS International Summit will be held at President Lincoln's Cottage from June 24<sup>th</sup> through June 28<sup>th</sup> 2013. High school students are invited to register for the Summit, and applications must be received by June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013. To register, contact Callie Hawkins, Associate Director for Programs at President Lincoln's Cottage, at [CHawkins@savingplaces.org](mailto:CHawkins@savingplaces.org).

At the International Summit, participants will engage with the history of President Lincoln's Cottage and work to apply Lincoln's promise of freedom to the modern fight against slavery. They will learn about slavery in a modern context, meet leaders in the anti-slavery field, develop a network of young abolitionists, and create materials to take back to their high schools to start SOS chapters. Workshops will be led by representatives from President Lincoln's Cottage, Polaris Project, MTV EXIT, GoodWeave, as well as other experts and officials. Students will cultivate teamwork and leadership skills at the Edge, a ropes course at George Mason University, and the National Mall.

“In the summer of 1862, President Lincoln toiled over the Emancipation Proclamation while he and his family lived here at the Cottage,” said Erin Carlson Mast, Executive Director of President Lincoln's Cottage. “But 150 years later, slavery still exists in this country and around the world. Human trafficking thrives in part because it goes unrecognized, and as many as 27 million people are currently enslaved worldwide. By supporting these students as they take on leadership roles in their communities, we are continuing President Lincoln's fight for freedom.”

“My mom witnessed a human trafficking case on an international flight, and once she got home, she became involved with Polaris Project,” remarked Henry B., co-founder of SOS. “Polaris Project inspired us to bring awareness to our age group about how prevalent human trafficking is, how it is relevant to our lives, and how we can work together to help prevent it. We founded SOS to begin that work, and we are thrilled that President Lincoln's Cottage is taking the program on as a signature project.”

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President Lincoln's Cottage, the "Cradle of the Emancipation Proclamation," is located on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC. While living here for more than a quarter of his presidency, Abraham Lincoln bonded with soldiers and veterans, made crucial decisions about the Civil War, and, most notably, developed the Emancipation Proclamation his first summer in residence. His daily commute put him in regular contact with wounded soldiers and self-emancipated men, women, and children. Today, the site offers an intimate, never-before-seen view of Abraham Lincoln's presidency and private life, and new perspectives on the influential ideas Lincoln developed while living here. Hours of operation: The Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center is open 9:30am-4:30pm Monday-Saturday and 10:30am-4:30pm Sunday. Cottage tours on the hour, 7 days a week. For more information on President Lincoln's Cottage, visit: [www.lincolncottage.org](http://www.lincolncottage.org) or call 202-829-0436.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately-funded non-profit organization, works to save America's historic places. President Lincoln's Cottage is a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit: [www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org).

To report a tip in the United States or connect with U.S. anti-trafficking services, community members can call The National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline at: 1-888-373-7888.

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