

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Naper Settlement participating in Blue Star Museums

Military families offered free admission this summer

Naperville, Ill. — Naper Settlement is proud to participate in Blue Star Museums, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families and more than 1,300 museums across America to offer free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day, May 30 through Labor Day, Sept. 5, 2011. The free admission program is available to active-duty military and their immediate family members (military ID holder and five immediate family members). Active duty military include Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and active duty National Guard and active duty Reserve members. Leadership support has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families.

In the summer of 2010, 300,000 military family members visited the partner museums. This year's Blue Star Museums represent fine arts museums, science museums, history museums, nature centers, and 70 children's museums. Naper Settlement joins other local museums in supporting the Blue Star Museums initiative, including the DuPage Children's Museum, the First Division Museum at Cantigny, the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art and the Morton Arboretum. The complete list of participating museums is available at www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Blue Star Families is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect and empower military families. In addition to morale and empowerment programs, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life and works to make military life more sustainable. Membership includes military spouses, children and parents as well as service members, veterans and civilians. To learn more about Blue Star Families, visit www.bluestarfam.org.

The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies and the philanthropic sector. To join the discussion on how art works, visit the NEA at arts.gov.

History comes to life at Naper Settlement, Chicagoland's outdoor history museum, located in downtown Naperville at 523 S. Webster St. Naper Settlement is accredited by the American Association of Museums. Open year round, for more information about hours and admission prices, visit www.napersettlement.museum or call (630) 420-6010.

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