

# Trails Across America

## 2025 PROGRAM - HELPFUL HINTS

Rails to Trails Conservancy is partnering with the William G. Pomeroy Foundation on the Trails Across America national grant program to celebrate and preserve history along America's multiuse trails. RTC and the foundation are excited to collaborate with communities across the nation to select, develop and install premium cast-aluminum historical markers featuring unique places, people and history along greenways, canal towpaths and rail-trails—linking communities while honoring their pasts.

All communities and trail organizations are encouraged to submit their ideas via our online application. Ideas that meet the criteria for selection will be developed in partnership with RTC, the community and the foundation, which will also serve as the program's funding sponsor—with a goal to install up to 20 new markers each year.

This new program builds on the success of a previous historical marker collaboration in 2023–2024 highlighting sites along the 3,700-mile Great American Rail-Trail®. Read [about the unique histories of these sites and see samples of the markers](#).

RTC has put together this guide to help you compile a successful application! Please feel free to direct any additional questions to Amy Kapp at [amy@railstotrails.org](mailto:amy@railstotrails.org).

### Notes on Marker Subject Matter

For selection, RTC recommends that your ideas meet the general parameters as outlined below. Note that this is just a general list, and it's possible to have acceptable ideas outside what is outlined here!

- For marker sites, historical relevance (founding, construction, industrial heyday, event) should be applicable before or by 1956.
- Structures (homes, buildings, depots, bridges, trestles, oil rigs, factories, mills, old stores, etc.), specific geographic sites or towns (depending on which historical events have taken place), major industrial or natural disasters, burial sites (including the individual's relevance to history) and geological anomalies, can all apply. See our [marker page](#) for examples.
  - o If you are proposing a structure, the relevance of that structure to the community (an event, person, purpose for the growth of the town, etc.) is required. The fact that it can date to 1956 or before in and of itself will likely not be enough for application approval.
  - o The structure should still be standing in some form (revitalized or rebuilt structures can apply).

- During the application process (see step 4 below), proof of permission to install a marker on the site in question will need to be provided in the form of a letter. A template will be provided if your idea is accepted by RTC.

## Application Process

- 1) **Idea Submission Form:** Complete [RTC's Idea Submission Form](#). We will get back to you within 30 days to potentially discuss the idea and any initial questions we/you may have.
- 2) **Pomeroy Letter of Interest:** If the marker is viable, RTC will submit an online LOI on your behalf to the Pomeroy Foundation and await their approval.
- 3) **Collaborative Planning:** Once Pomeroy approves the idea, we'll contact you to set up a meeting to discuss potential text focus, next steps, and any known existing primary sources and the process for acquiring what we need. *If further primary sources are needed, we will work with you to help secure them.* RTC will work with you on the suggested final marker text.
- 4) **Final Application Submission:** RTC will submit to Pomeroy your final application, including: final marker text, site information/coordinates, primary sources (vetted and organized), permission letter for installation (by property owner) and QR code for more information (see step 5 below).
- 5) **Supplemental Information/Story Development:** We'll collaborate with you on an article, story or other content where interested trail users can learn more about your site! The information will eventually be accessible from the QR code.
- 6) **Installation:** RTC will work with the foundry that is making the sign to ensure the marker is delivered to your appropriate contact. Once the marker is received by your team, you will be responsible for its installation. We will be excited to receive confirmation and pictures of the marker when it's installed!

As your marker is completed, we'd love to hear about your plans to launch it and be part of helping you amplify it, if possible!

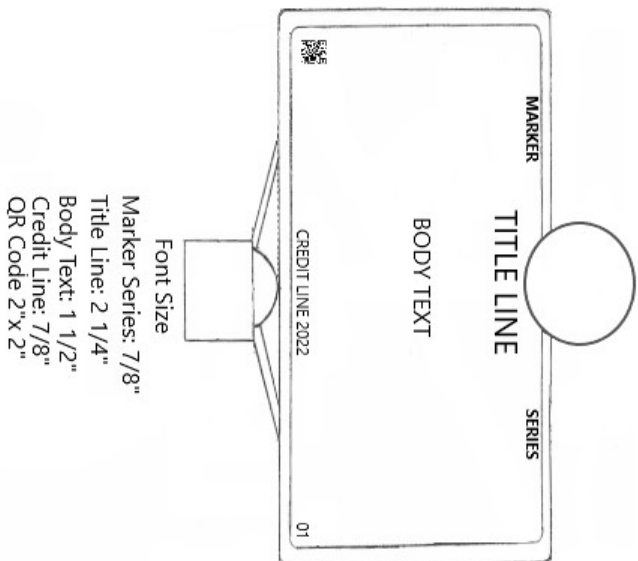
## Primary Source Documentation

The Pomeroy Foundation requires primary source documentation that confirms all text and facts on the marker, before the marker is approved. Primary sources include any documentation that occurred at the time of the event, and in which the information documented was based on first-person knowledge.

Check out a list of recommended sources on the [Pomeroy Foundation website](#).

**Note:** *Though it's helpful, you are not required to have primary sources at the time of your initial idea submission. If your idea is viable, RTC can assist in an initial and later formal search for necessary documents, if needed, before the marker text is finalized. Eventually, RTC will ask you to submit any documentation you do have in your possession in a scanned, electronic format as PDFs, JPEGs or TIFFs (in some cases, photos of original documents may be acceptable).*

- A - 33 1/2"
- B - 19"
- C - 37 1/2"
- D - 25"
- E - 5/8"
- F - 3/8"
- G - 7/8"
- H - 13 1/2"
- Id - 3 1/2"
- J - 7"
- K - 5"
- L - 3"
- M - 8"
- N - 5 1/8"
- Od - 4 5/8"
- P - 2 7/8"
- Q - 8 1/2"
- R - 6"



Font Size  
Marker Series: 7/8"  
Title Line: 2 1/4"  
Body Text: 1 1/2"  
Credit Line: 7/8"  
QR Code 2"x 2"

