NATIONAL HISTORIC MARKER DAY
LAST FRIDAY OF APRIL

WILLIAM G. POMEROY FOUNDATION®
For History. For Life.®

# HISTORICAL MARKER CLEANING GUIDE

**#NATIONALHISTORICMARKERDAY**

# PREPARATION

## STEP 1. MARKER SELECTION

Identify the historical marker you want to clean. You're welcome to pick more than one — there's plenty of markers to go around!

NOTE

If you need help finding marker locations, you can check out the Pomeroy Foundation's marker map at wgpfoundation.org or The Historical Marker Database at hmdb.org.

## STEP 2. PERMISSION, PARKING & SAFETY

After you've selected a marker to clean, make sure you have permission to work on it. Is it on private property? If so, reach out to the landowner or municipality for guidance.

NOTE

Be mindful of traffic and parking regulations.

You may want to check the location using Google Street View or scout it out in advance.

In addition, please follow local and state COVID-19 guidelines.

## STEP 3. SUPPLIES

Here's what you should consider for your supplies list:

- SOAP
- WATER
- BUCKET
- CLOTH RAGS
- SPONGE
- NON-METAL SCRUB BRUSH
- TOOTHBRUSH
- PORTABLE SPRAY WASHER
- GLOVES
- PROTECTIVE EYE GEAR
- STEP LADDER
- GRASS CLIPPERS
- REFUSE OR TRASH BAGS
- RAKE
- MULCH (WHEN APPLICABLE)

# CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

## STEP 4. EVALUATE

When you arrive at your location you should first assess the marker's condition.

How dirty is the marker? Is there flaking paint or rust? Will cleaning the marker cause more harm than good? Is the marker cast iron, aluminum or some other material?

NOTE

If the marker needs refurbishment or repairs, consult with your local historical society or municipality regarding who might handle that type of project.

If you want to do a "before and after" comparison, this is the time to snap a "before" photo of the marker.

## STEP 5: MARKER PREP

Begin by removing larger debris and residue. Follow that with an initial rinse using just water. If needed, go ahead and set up your step ladder.

## STEP 6. CLEANING

Prepare a mild mixture of soap and water. Wet a non-metal scrub brush with the soapy mix and begin gently cleaning one side of the marker. Start at the top and work down to the marker base.

Consider using a soft toothbrush for detailed cleaning around raised lettering, logos and trim.

# CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

## STEP 7. RINSING

Once the marker is lathered with the soapy mix, it's time to rinse. Use a portable water sprayer (if you have one) or bucket of clean water and a sponge.

NOTE

Remember to clean and rinse the other side of the marker.

## STEP 8. POLES & POSTS

Repeat the cleaning process on the marker's pole or post.

NOTE

Some are made of metal, while others are comprised of materials such as concrete. Adjust your cleaning approach as needed.

## STEP 9. LANDSCAPING

Lastly, trim any tall grass or weeds around the base of the pole. Rake leaves and remove any fallen branches and/or sticks. If the marker is set in landscaping, you may want to spread down new mulch or edge the bed.

# TIME TO CELEBRATE!

You did it! You've put in a lot of hard work to make that marker sparkle, so put the supplies aside, step back, and take it in. After all, it's National Historic Marker Day!

## STEP 10. TAKE PHOTOS

Say "cheese" and take plenty of photos! Get some good shots of just the marker then gather 'round and pose with the marker.

## We want to see your photos!

Email them to us at **info@wgpfoundation.org** & share on social media with **#NationalHistoricMarkerDay**