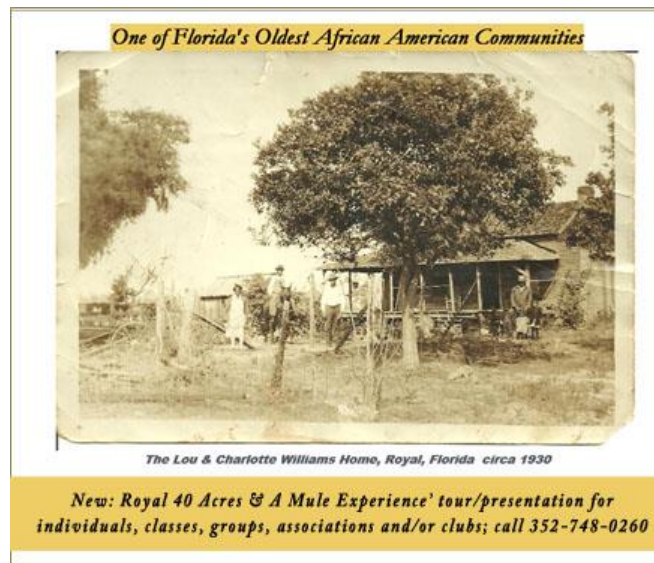


**“40 Acres and A Mule” Tour
in Royal, Florida**
presented by Young Performing Artists (YPAs), Inc.



Young Performing Artists (YPAs), Inc. is a 501 (c) (3), not-for-profit corporation that offers statewide and local cultural, historic, artistic, scholastic and enrichment focused programming.

YPAs, Inc. also offers local programs: “Royal Historical Enrichment & Art Program” (RHEAP)

- 1) **Enrichment:** Youth School Break Activities, and Seniors & Elders Monthly Activities in Royal.
- 2) **Historic Tours:** entitled “40 Acres & A Mule.”

YPAs, Inc. wants to spark your interest in arranging a group “40 Acres & A Mule” Royal tour. Formed in **1865**, the Community of Royal’s first settlers were former slaves from the Old Green Plantation, located west of the community on the Withlacoochee River.

Royal is one of Florida’s oldest African American communities and has a state-issued historic marker. Equally important is the fact that most of the generations still own their 40 acres, which were issued at the end of the Civil War as part of **Forty Acres and a Mule Special Field Order No. 15**, issued by Major-General William Tecumseh Sherman, Headquarters Military Division of the Mississippi, in the Field, Savannah, Georgia, on **January 16, 1865**.

After the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, on **April 14, 1865**, his successor Andrew Johnson revoked Sherman's order. When it was rescinded, most freed slaves did not receive 40 acres and an army mule; for the ones who did, the land was reclaimed. As far as we can determine, freed slaves of the Royal Community had already claimed their 40 acres and were able to keep their land. Today, most of these 40 acres parcels are still maintained by descendants of those first settlers.

Royal, just 5 miles west of Wildwood, FL, (follow CR 462 West off of Hwy. 301, and take a right for one block at CR 235) is celebrating 150 years of a proud history. Local programming and Royal’s rich history are housed at the **Alonzo A. Young, Sr. Enrichment & Historical Center**, a *Governor’s Point of Light Project*. Please visit the Royal Community website at: <http://www.communityofroyal.org>

With a tour you can experience the history first-hand and contemplate what it means to you and to the future of America.

Our country has been forged and greatly influenced by the African American presence. It is important for every citizen of the United States, including today's younger African Americans, to recognize the struggle and sacrifice that African Americans have endured to achieve equal rights and tolerance in this country.

African American History is vitally important because of what it represents. The *Declaration of Independence* states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

The Declaration is colorblind. It states the way things are supposed to be and the expectation of abundance and justice for everyone. Through the years, we have seen progress, but regretfully, we have also seen catastrophe and even regression in the pursuit of equality and in the pursuit of justice.

The YPAs, Inc. is proud to present this opportunity for all to stand on the edge of one of Royal's 40- Acre tracks and to ponder our country's past in order to get a feel for and glimpse of African American History.

Witness the newly freed slaves who were ambitious and hardworking, and who knew how to work the land. Some of the primary crops being cultivated were sugarcane, corn, and tobacco.

Today in Royal, the remnants of some of the structures remain on land that is currently owned by descendants of the slaves from the Old Green Plantation. Come to the Community of Royal and witness the landmarks and the rich history that still remains.

The tour is led by a resident of Royal and is entertaining and informative. It is held in the air conditioned museum except for the first ten-minutes -- wear a hat and closed-toe shoes. The center is located at 9569 CR 235, Wildwood (Royal) FL 34785. Call the office at 352-748-0260, or, for a contact in The Villages, Anne Timoner, at 203-927-3102. We are accepting groups of 5 to 35. Reservations are required. The center asks a \$5.00 contribution. Email: royalproject@cfl.rr.com.



The Emancipation Proclamation

The proclamation consists of two executive orders issued by United States President Abraham Lincoln during the American Civil War. The first one, issued **September 22, 1862**, declared the freedom of all slaves in any state of the Confederate States of America that did not return to Union control by **January 1, 1863**. The second order, issued **January 1, 1863**, named ten specific states where it would apply. Lincoln issued the Executive Order by his authority as "Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy" under Article II, section 2 of the United States Constitution. In 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation was first read at Christmas under the Proclamation tree in Port Royal, SC. On **April 8, 1864**, the Senate passed an amendment to abolish slavery. Congress followed suit on **January 31, 1865**.

Next Tour Dates: _____ **or** _____ **Time:** _____

Royal Historical Enrichment & Art Program (RHEAP)

Alonzo A. Young, Sr. Enrichment & Historical Center

9569 County Road 231, Wildwood (Royal), FL 34785

RSVP: 352-748-0260

Email: royalproject@cfl.rr.com or

youngartists@aol.com

Reservations required