



# The Memphis TEA Party

Forming the "Green TEA Patriots"  
*Training Up Our Youth In American Exceptionalism*

June 2010

# Overview

- The TEA Party movement continues to develop various organizations, PAC's, missions, etc., which have been focused on the adult voter
  - Challenges to this approach abound as the proliferation of "national" and "regional" organizations claim leadership positions in the movement
  - However, the overarching effort to organize and educate these adults has left out the youth from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Many school curriculums teach a "multiculturalist" approach to our history, our founders and founding documents and lean towards a liberal view of politics
  - Children are seen to be indoctrinated at times in the name of "tolerance" and therefore are being taught concepts that are antagonistic to conservative principles or worse
  - Furthermore, activities in the schools do not encourage a focus on those conservative principles and exercises do not demonstrate conservatism in action

# Strategic Initiative

- While it is difficult to influence standard curriculum of our junior and high schools, the TEA Party movement can begin to frame the discussion in context of after school education and club activities
- This approach allows for the common use of the school facilities, for which conservative taxpayers remit their taxes, and ensures a safe and distraction free environment for the formation of these efforts
- Taking a view to extracurricular activities, equal access ensures that the TEA Party conservative message can be accommodated within the school environment without obstruction
  - Formation of the club in the school could be school sanctioned
  - Establishment of a curriculum/activities that promotes an understanding of American exceptionalism
  - Allows for the promotion of conservative values

# The Concept – “Green TEA Patriots”

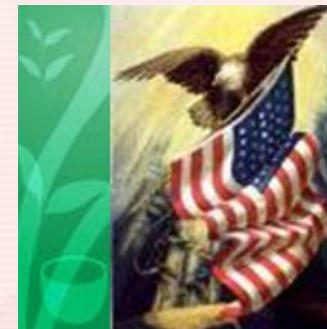
- Since the inception of the TEA Party movement, more people have become aware of the challenges to engaging their children in conservative principles in the largely liberal environments of our educational system
- The Memphis TEA Party is proposing the establishment of the “Green TEA Patriots” to form extracurricular clubs throughout our junior high and high schools in the US as well as in churches or other appropriate public and safe venues
  - Focus on after school first
  - Leverage church and private school relationships second
  - Extend to public locations, such as libraries or community centers as opportunity and scale permits
- The Green TEA Patriots symbolizes the youth of the TEA Party movement members, participants, activists and their families while addressing conservative principles through an after school club organization

# Creating the Brand

- The Green TEA Patriots creates a brand for young (e.g. green or nascent) conservatives who desire to associate with other like minded children and youth
  - At the same time, a structured curriculum or study approach would allow for the education of key American history and principles that too often are missing in the multiculturalist approach to existing curriculums
  - The program would launch a new brand within the TEA Party movement that would focus our youths interest in their country's history, founders and founding documents as well as the discourse of today's political environment

- The image shown below provides the illustrative context for the organization and the extracurricular club

- A symbolic green tea plant
- The raising of the flag together with our country's symbol of power, the eagle indicates the idea of "raising up our young conservatives in the knowledge of their nation and its ideals"
- And could be seen as a "badge of honor" by attaching various levels of certification, etc. in training and demonstration of knowledge



Green TEA Patriots

- [www.greenteapatriots.org](http://www.greenteapatriots.org) has been registered for this purpose (.com & .info)

# Developing the Idea



Green TEA Patriots

- While conservative educators and leaders would best be able to create an interesting and challenging curriculum and associated activities, we have proposed a couple of texts as a baseline for use in reading, discussing and studying during these academically oriented sessions

## Teaching the Constitution [BOX SET]

The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands (Editor)

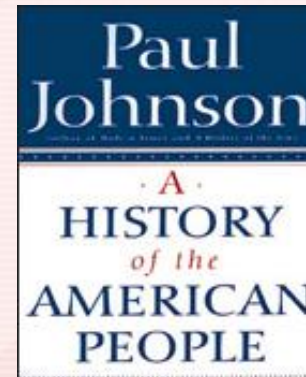
This boxed set contains classroom resources to help America's educators teach about the most important documents in U.S. history.

### Books In The Package:

- Our Documents: 100 Milestone Documents from the National Archives
- Our Constitution by Donald A. Ritchie and JusticeLearning.org
- Our Rights by David Bodenhamer
- The Pursuit of Justice: Supreme Court Decisions that Shaped America by Kermit L. Hall and John Patrick
- The United States Constitution, What It Says, What It Means: A Hip Pocket Guide by JusticeLearnig.org
- Understanding Democracy: A Hip Pocket Guide by John J. Patrick

### DVDs In The Package

- Our Constitution: A Conversation
- A Conversation on the Constitution: Judicial Independence
- Key Constitutional Concepts
- Mandate: the President and the People



Paul Johnson, has produced an epic that spans the history of the American people over the past 400 years. The prolific narrative covers every aspect of U.S. history, from science, customs, religion, and politics to the individual men and women who have helped shape the nation. His detailed, provocative

examinations of political and social icons, from Lyndon Johnson to Norman Rockwell, are especially strong. Johnson's text is intelligent and rich with detail, and yet extremely accessible for anyone interested in a re-interpretive analysis of America's past.

What makes this book unique is Johnson's approach to this self-professed Herculean task. The prevalent tone throughout is optimism. Whether he's discussing race relations, industrialization, the history of women, immigrants, Vietnam, or political correctness, Johnson--a staunch conservative who was born, bred, and educated in England--is openly enamored with America's past, particularly the hardships and tribulations that the nation has had to overcome.

He sees this story as a series of important lessons, not just for Americans but for the whole of mankind as well. At a time when other contemporary scholars find it easier to bemoan the past, Johnson offers the reader "a compelling antidote to those who regard the future with pessimism."

# A Conservative Viewpoint



- The aforementioned texts and materials take a decidedly conservative view and one which amplifies American exceptionalism while at the same time not being dogmatic
  - The texts have been purchased for a detail review prior to incorporating them into the curriculum
- It is most certain that many of our legislators and even our teachers would not use these materials to engage in a mature and reasoned dialogue regarding America's founding and its manifest destiny as a nation and in the world
- Finally, these texts and video materials would be supplemented with "club activities" and exercises as well as social activities to enhance the uniqueness of the Green TEA Patriots brand and the conservative message in general
  - These activities could include everything from attending meetings at city hall, attending TEA Party events, social gatherings, concerts, lectures and "meet and greet" with conservative local, state and national leaders

# Next Steps



- The Memphis TEA Party is moving this idea forward on a local basis and is seeking other leaders who would like to be involved in the further development of this idea
  - Funding sources, a more formalized curriculum and club structure and of course, syndicating the idea with like minded conservative families, will be necessary to launch the initiative in schools and churches
- Target start date could be end of second quarter with a prototype rollout and before the end of the school year
  - Hard launch would begin across multiple states at the beginning of the new 2010 school year
- Feedback and further development of the idea are crucial and we would appreciate getting your thoughts and reactions to this approach
  - Contact me at [mark@thememphisteaparty.com](mailto:mark@thememphisteaparty.com) if you have thoughts or are interested in working this effort