

We spend all year advocating for places that matter. During Preservation Month, we dedicate time to celebrate and explore historic places in innovative ways.

This May, the Alabama Historical Commission invites you to help celebrate Alabama's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). AHC will be highlighting Alabama's HBCUs throughout the month of May. Be sure to follow along on social media!

In January 2017, the Alabama Historical Commission received funding through the National Park Service's (NPS) Underrepresented Communities Historic Preservation Fund to develop an Alabama HBCUs Survey and National Register Nomination Project. A major goal of this project is to collect information that will formally recognize all nine of the four-year HBCUs in Alabama, as well as support preservation efforts of current and future administrations as plans are made to upgrade campus infrastructure, launch capital campaigns, and apply for NPS grant funding.

The campuses include Alabama State University in Montgomery, A&M University and Oakwood College in Huntsville, Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Talladega College in Talladega, Selma University and Concordia College in Selma, Stillman College in Tuscaloosa and Miles College in Birmingham.

To help celebrate, complete the items on the action list below, and let us know when you do by tagging #ThisPlaceMatters and #AlaHisCom. We can't wait to see what you accomplish!

1. Share this list on social media, and compete with your preservation pals to see who can check the most off this list (and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)!)
2. Read the latest AHC [newsletter](#).
3. Share your photos of an HBCU in your area. Don't forget to use #ThisPlaceMatters and #AlaHisCom.
4. Take your This Place Matters swag out on the town. You can print your own using the [National Trust's digital toolkit](#).
5. Read about Alabama's HBCUs and share what you learned on our Facebook page.
6. [Subscribe](#) to receive the latest AHC news straight to your inbox!
7. Get inspired by [students who chose to attend an HBCU](#)
8. Contact your elected officials to discuss preservation issues where you live. And do not forget to register to vote! Local, state, and national elections can have a huge effect on preservation.
9. Start a preservationist book club. [Here are some suggestions to get you started](#).
10. Follow [@AlaHisCom](#) on our brand-new Instagram page!
11. Learn how [others are addressing issues of diversity and inclusion](#) in preservation.
12. Volunteer with an HBCU in your area to help educate high school students and your local community.
13. Is there an HBCU in your area? Take a walk around your neighborhood. [Play history detective](#) to find out more about its unique past.
14. [Speak up](#) for HBCUs and other preservation-related causes.
15. [Teach the next generation](#) about [preservation](#).
16. [Start saving places](#) in your neighborhood.
17. Help protect your community by [identifying a National Register nominee](#).
18. Plan an event with local preservationists to celebrate HBCUs. Your options are limitless, from historic bike rides to city tours.
19. Create preservation art! Paint or draw your favorite HBCU and be sure to share it on social media (don't forget to use #ThisPlaceMatters and #AlaHisCom).

