

Katahdin Story Booth Project

Interviewer Guide

Part I: Tips and Guidelines (to be reviewed with Story Technician)

1. Please refrain from talking over or interrupting the storyteller. Give them time to complete their thoughts. Sometimes silence can be helpful to the interview process.
2. Try to remain as silent as possible when not asking questions. While tempting to practice active listening by saying things like “yes” or “uh-huh”, these sounds can make the editing process more difficult in post-production.
3. Ask open-ended questions and encourage the storyteller to repeat the question in their answer. For example, “**My name is Joe Smith**” rather than “Joe Smith”.
4. Avoid contributing to any background noises such as foot-tapping, finger-tapping, or pen-clicking. Again, these sounds will be very audible in the recording.
5. You may take notes on this page or any other to help guide your interview. Have Fun!

Part II: Opening Questions (basic information required in every interview)

What is your full name?
What year were you born?
Where were you born?
Where did you grow up?
What was the first year you lived in Millinocket?
Where do you currently live?
Can you talk about your family ties to the area?
What does the Greater Katahdin Region mean to you?

Part III: Optional Questions: Depending on the storyteller’s preferences, you may ask your own questions or draw from the bank of questions on the opposite side of this page.

Is there a specific subject or story that you wish to talk about today?
Which, if any of these topics would you like to talk about today?

Growing up; School; Family; Work

Part IV: Closing Questions (required)

What is your vision for the future of this region?
Is there anybody that you would like to interview to help contribute to the Story Booth Project?
Would you like a copy of this unedited interview? Digital Download or audio CD?

Thank you for taking the time to share your story with us. Please consider telling others about our project to help us capture the stories that shaped our region.

Optional Questions

General Questions

Who has been the most important person in your life? Can you tell me about them?

What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?

What is your earliest memory in the Greater Katahdin Region?

Do you have any regrets?

What was the happiest moment of your life? The saddest?

How would you like to be remembered?

For your great great grandchildren listening to this years from now: is there any wisdom you'd want to pass on to them? What would you want them to know?

Growing Up

What was it like where you grew up/ are growing up?

Who were/are your parents and what were they like?

Who were/ are your siblings and what was it like growing up with them?

Describe your childhood

Do you have any favorite stories from your childhood?

School

What kind of student were you?

Where did you go to school?

Tell me about your classmates/ friends in school. What did you all do for fun?

Was there a teacher or teachers who had a particularly strong influence on your life? Tell me about them.

Family / Relationships

Where is your mom's family from?

Where is your dad's family from?

What traditions have been passed down in your family?

Do you have a love of your life?

Do you have somebody you consider your life partner?

How did you meet that person?

How did you know he/she was "the one"?

What advice do you have for young couples?

Who were your favorite relatives?

Do you have children and if so what are their names and tell us a little something about them.

How has being a parent changed you?

What are your dreams for your children?

Work

What do/did you do for a living?

How did you get into that line of work?

Did/do you like your job?

What lessons has your job taught you?

What did you want to be when you grew up?

Any favorite stories from your work life?