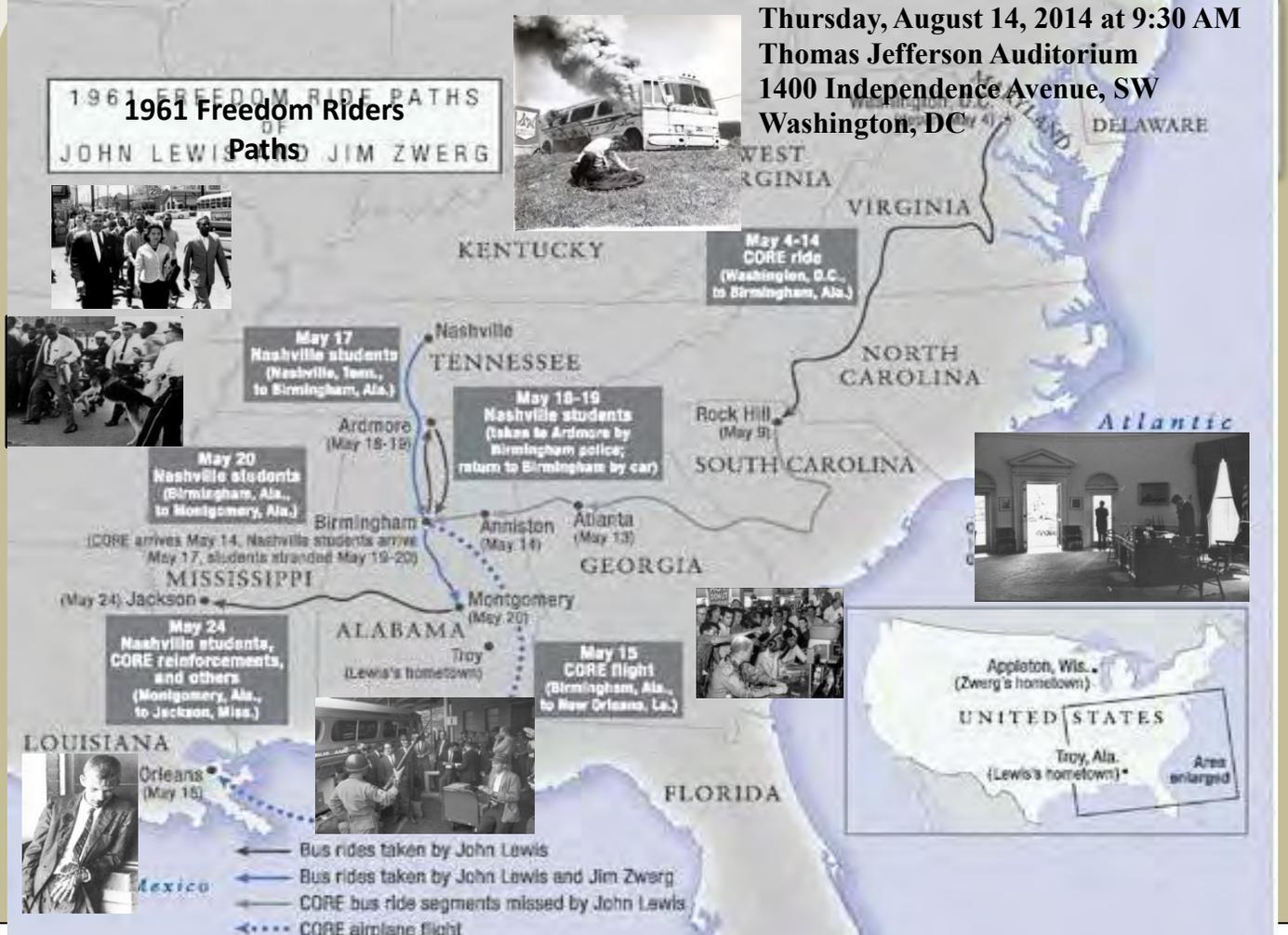
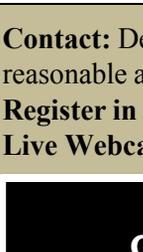
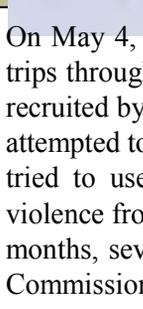
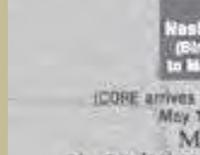


“In Conversation With...The Freedom Riders”

Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 9:30 AM
Thomas Jefferson Auditorium
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC

1961 FREEDOM RIDE PATHS OF JOHN LEWIS AND JIM ZWERG



On May 4, 1961, a group of 13 Black and White civil rights activists launched the Freedom Rides, a series of bus trips through the American South to protest segregation in interstate bus terminals. The Freedom Riders, who were recruited by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), a U.S. civil rights group, departed from Washington, D.C., and attempted to integrate facilities at bus terminals along the way into the deep South. African American Freedom Riders tried to use “Whites-only” restrooms and lunch counters, and vice versa. The group encountered tremendous violence from White protestors along the route, but also drew international attention to their cause. Over the next few months, several hundred Freedom Riders engaged in similar actions. In September 1961, the Interstate Commerce Commission issued regulations prohibiting segregation in bus and train stations nationwide.

Contact: Deborah Allen at Deborah.Allen@ascr.usda.gov or 202.205.8349, for additional information and reasonable accommodations and accessibility requests.
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