**14219, Jennifer Andrews – Stone Mountain GA**

**Outline**

I. Introduction

A. Attention Getter – Stone Mountain Georgia is a family vacation destination and has been giving families a vacation experience for 50 years.

B. Central Idea – Stone Mountain Georgia offers families an experience they’ll never forget with activities that range from staying in a luxury hotel to staying in a tent; enjoy a cable car ride or a picnic or experience the ultimate with the Lasershow.

C. Credibility – Stone Mountain itself has been I business for 50 years but the people of the area have known it to be tourist attraction since 1838.

D. Goodwill (Justification of topic and relevance to audience) – Stone Mountain has served both residents and tourists with a wide variety of activities ranging from those that are educational with their museum to those that are just plain fun with the skyride and lasershow.

E. Preview Statement- Stone Mountain is not just vacation; it’s a place you can go over and over to enjoy a variety of vacation experiences.

II. Main Point One - dozens of fun annual events such as Spring FUN Break, Summer at the Rock, Yellow Daisy Festival, Indian Festival and Pow-Wow, Stone Mountain Christmas and Snow Mountain.

III. Main Point Two – Tourist attraction since 1838 – long and varied list

IV. Main Point Three – Historical Confederate memorials and modern tourist activities

V. Conclusion:

A. Review - Family fun place for a day or a week,

B. Reinforce the central ideas – Stone Mountain is a Family Vacation Experience, not just a local tourist attraction

C. Tie back to the attention getter – Stone Mountain has been providing families with vacations that provide enjoyment, excitement and history for at least 50 years, building on a tourist history going back to 1838.

Citation Page

<http://www.stonemountainpark.com>

Stone Mountain speech

Stone Mountain Georgia is a family vacation destination and has been giving families a vacation experience for 50 years. When you go to Stone Mountain you need to be prepared. This is not just an amusement park or a campground. Here you will find activities that seem never ending. You can, indeed, camp in a tent or your RV at the largest Georgia campground. But, you also have the option of staying in the luxury hotel which has its own round of attractions.

You and your family can play in the spray of the Geyser or stay dry in the Towers. You can enjoy a SkyHike in the nation’s largest adventure course. There’s also a cable car to the top of Stone Mountain where you can enjoy the historic Stone Mountain Carving. If that’s not your cup of tea, you can take a scenic train ride. In addition to family vacations Stone Mountain hosts company or family picnics at their covered outdoor pavilion. Then you can wrap it all up by enjoying the world’s largest laser light show featuring a firework’s finale.

Stone Mountain’s history actually goes back to 1838 when Aaron Cloud built the first attraction on top of the mountain. It was a wooden tower that was 165 feet tall with a 40 foot square base. Can you imagine it, tourists paid all of $.50 to climb the tower. That tower was later blown down and never rebuilt. During Reconstruction following the Civil War also restored tourism and the quarrying business. Granite from there was shipped all over the world as well as the United States. Virtually every state has a building that uses Stone Mountain granite. In 1887 the Venable Brothers bought all of Stone Mountain for $48,000 and ran the quarrying operations and later, in 1915 Gutzon Borglum, a famous sculptor, drew up the first sketches of the memorial, for Mrs. Helen Plane, a charter member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC). She was the first person to talk about putting a memorial carving on the mountain. In 1916 Samuel H. Venable leased the north face of the mountain to the UDC on the condition that a suitable monument be completed in 12 years. Lack of funding and World War I delayed the start of the carving until 1923.The head of Robert E Lee was unveiled on Lee’s birthday Jan 19, 1924 and later blasted off by Sculptor Augustus Lukeman. His plan then was to enshrine Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Jefferson Davis. With many struggles over several years the carving was finished in 1972.

In April 11, 1956 the Venable family signed a quit claim deed for the area encompassing Stone Mountain, giving it to Stone Mountain Confederate Memorial, Inc., and two years later the State of Georgia purchased Stone Mountain and the surrounding land to create a 3,200 acre park. Focus was placed on development for recreation and entertainment and the completion of the carving. In September 1958 Stone Mountain Confederate Memorial, Inc. gives Stone Mountain to the state of Georgia. Over the years they opened the Stone Mountain Scenic Railroad, the Skylift, and the Antebellum Plantation. They also added the Antique Car and Treasure Museum and Confederate Hall and the Riverboat Complex. In April 1965 Stone Mountain Park officially opened, operated by Berlio of Georgia, Inc.

But, they didn’t stop with the initial attractions. Later additions were the construction on the Stone Mountain Inn, the Grist Mill and Covered Bridge were moved to Stone Mountain Park from Elijay, GA and Athens, GA respectively. An 18 hole golf course was added in 1968, along with the Beach and the first Yellow Daily Festival. In the 1970’s the Stone Mountain Carving was completed, the Highland Games were first held, the First Tour of Southern Ghosts opened, the First Frontier Days was held, the Scarlett O’Hara Riverboat was built, the water slide was added to the Beach and a sports complex was added.

Even more new attractions were added in the 1980’s with the very first Lasershow Spectatular in 1983. In July 1996 the Centennial Summer Olympic Games events were held at the park. Stone Mountain Park was the venue for tennis, cycling and archery. The new aerial tramway opened, and the top of the mountain complex was renovated. On July 18, 1996 the Summit Skyride (formerly the Skylift) transported the Olympic torch before heading to downtown Atlanta for the opening ceremonies. The Discovering Stone Mountain Museum opened in 1997

The new century brought about even more new exhibits and opportunities such as The Outdoor Quarry Exhibit, the Great Barn and the Farmyard was opened as part of the Antebellum Plantation. Next came the 1870s town of Crossroads opens along with demonstrating crafters, Georgia's first 4D Theater, and several shops & restaurants. Holiday celebrations were added with the Annual Pumpkin Festival is held, Stone Mountain Christmas opens as “A Southern Christmas”, Kid’s Spring Break festival, Extreme Summer Adventure festival & Camp Highland Outpost. New adventure activities were added with the Animal Planet Summer Adventure, and Great Locomotive Chase Adventure Golf.

In May 2008 visitors welcomed the debut of digitally remastered 25th Anniversary edition of the Lasershow Spectacular as well as the opening of the SkyHike®, the nation's largest family adventure course. Then in December 2008 Snow Mountain opened. The debut of the Lasershow Spectacular in Mountainvision® occurred in 2012 along with the opening of the Stone Mountain Park Geyser Towers. The Lasershow Spectacular in Mountainvision is presented by Humana and is a must see Atlanta tradition. It offers state-of-the-art digital graphics and an awe-inspiring laser show effect. The show now features more lights and more lasers. They will showcase the mountainside and make you feel as if you are deep in the heart of the laser show itself. The laser mirror bounce shots from all directions creates the effect of lasers jumping over the crowd, while enjoying lots of great music. Visitors can enjoy the show from one of the terraces which offer a tremendous view of the mountain, the famous carving right along with the world’s longest running Lasershow.

With all of these offerings and the rich history of Stone Mountain visitors can experience a day or several days. They can buy an annual membership or just take in specific events. With all of this visitors both local and from far and wide can experience modern excitement and a taste of history. This is truly a vacation experience you don’t want to miss.