



A journey of discovery connecting continents and cultures across centuries

AEP News & Notes

Abdelkader Monument at Art in the Park

The Abdelkader Education Project and IAmYourProtector.org commissioned the Abdelkader Monument by New York City artist Joe Reginella, dubbed the 'Banksy of Monuments.' This life-sized monument traveled from New York City to Elkader, Iowa and will be featured at Elkader's Art in the Park on August 19-20, 2023. This event is part of the on-going I Am Your Protector project, based in Geneva, Switzerland, that begs the question Who Do We Put on Pedestals? The set of monuments placed in public spaces tell the stories of global community 'Protectors.' The Emir holds that distinction for his heroic act of 1860 in protecting thousands of lives as religious riots broke out in Damascus.



Social Media Internship for Fall 2023

AEP seeks an intern to help expand our digital presence on social media. The ability to work independently and remotely is essential. The weekly time commitment can be flexible. All college students interested in this position should send an e-mail to info@abdelkaderproject.org explaining their skills and career ambitions.

Memorial Donations

Norman Arbeene Family, Brooklyn, NYC
Maureen Bergan Memorial, Elkader, Iowa

What better way to honor the life of a pillar in your community than by furthering the mission of AEP. To memorialize your loved one with a contribution to AEP and a mention in our newsletter, please contact info@abdelkaderproject.org. As a 501c3 non-profit organization, all contributions are tax deductible.

2023 Abdelkader Global Citizenship Prize (AGCP) - Essay Contest

AEP, in partnership with Global Education at the Stanley Center for Peace and Security, congratulates the essay winners and thanks all students who submitted essays. We are especially grateful to our judges for sharing their time and talents.

2023 AGCP Essay Winners include:

1st Prize (\$1,000) went to Reem Kamil Kirja of Iowa City West, Iowa City, Iowa.

"Abd el-Kader taught me that not all warriors cause bloodshed and not all scholars are passive. The Emir's mercy and humility teach lessons my generation can utilize today, such as amplifying our beliefs through advocacy and persevering when a power intervenes. From all perspectives, Abd el-Kader dethroned Muslim stereotypes during his time and put them to rest. He represented a courageous and intelligent hero who cared about his people rather than his power. Through teaching about Abd el-Kader in schools, we can dispel the stereotypes that come with being Muslim and instead acknowledge them as changemakers in the community and gallant heroes in history."

2nd Prize (\$750) went to Admad Khizar of New Jersey.

3rd Prize (\$500) went to Klaire Lietz, Valley High School, West Des Moines, Iowa.

"While reading about Abd El-Kader's life, I came across not only his prominence in shaping Algerian history but also his incredible character, echoing in every choice he made. More specifically, his leading role in saving numerous Christians in Damascus exemplifies his courage, his compassion for those different from him, and his active role in helping people in need. Abd El-Kader never gave up. When the French imprisoned him, he stood strong and reasoned with them to help his people. All of which he did for them, not himself. He fought relentlessly until the Algerian suffering was too great to continue, and then surrendered himself to end the hardship of his people. He advocated for peace among their countries, which could be applied to current events. This only begins to tell of the good he brought to Algeria, and the world, by having compassion for his enemies –a lesson that would be valuable for many today. Overall, shining his light on the world by teaching his life story inspires others to follow his example, making the world all the better."



2023 Abdelkader-PRSSA Competition

The 2023 Abdelkader-PRSSA Competition included public relations and the legacy of Emir Abdelkader, to challenge common preconceptions about Muslims. The competition was open to individuals or teams of students from a PRSSA Chapter. Each of the following winners received \$500.

Adham Mohamed, is an Egyptian American rising senior at the University of Minnesota. Major: Strategic Communications. Adham is his college's PRSSA President and a L'Oréal Intern. He presented a program for college students, with a personal touch.

Uyen Ngo is a rising sophomore at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. She is a Vietnamese citizen studying in the U.S. and has created a template for virtual travel shows and podcasts by Muslim Americans. Her ideas capitalize on social media that already exists.

Before you go, did you know...

This year marks 15 years of telling the Abdelkader Story. In 2014, AEP became a 501c3 non-profit organization. We continue to broaden our audience and strengthen our partnerships with like-minded people and organizations across the United States and beyond. Questions and comments are welcome!



ABDELKADER EDUCATION PROJECT (AEP) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that creates resources and opportunities that promote cultural understanding & global citizenship. AEP imagines a world where fears are replaced with empathy, ignorance is replaced with knowledge, and the human community is flourishing. Learn more at www.abdelkaderproject.org.

