

## ADOPTION KIT

## Putting a program's pairings into the public register

For any organization that already pairs a master with a successor — a state folklife program, a trade association, a company running its own succession. The pairings exist. This is how the record of them becomes permanent, citable and findable, without asking anyone's permission and without waiting on a reply.

### The whole thing in four sentences

Export the pairings the program already publishes, in the format on page 3. Run the validator on the file; it tells you what conforms and exactly what would and would not be published. Submit it. Every pairing gets a permanent public entry that links back to the program as the source.

### What this is not

**It is not a Practice Record.** A Practice Record describes how a practice is actually done — the sequence, the tolerances, the sensory cues, the failure modes — and carries the master's own signed assertion that it is correct. Only a master can make one, and no program can make one on a master's behalf. This format gives a program no way to try.

**What it carries is a Lineage Entry:** a named person taught a named person a named practice in a named year, attested by the organization that administered it. That is a smaller claim, it is the claim a program can actually make, and it is the one worth making.

**It is also not a transfer of custody.** No recording, photograph or field note moves anywhere. The program remains the source and every entry points back to the program's own page.

### What the program is not asked for

- No staff time beyond producing one export. There is no onboarding call and no meeting.
- No matching funds, no fee, and no fee later. A route that costs a practitioner or a program nothing is a permanent requirement of the published standard, not an introductory offer.
- No re-consenting of past participants. Entries are drawn from what the program has already published, or from what it holds and is free to share.
- No exclusivity, and nothing that displaces an existing archival relationship. An archive holds material; this holds the fact of the teaching. They are different jobs.

### What the program gets

1. **A permanent citable entry per pairing**, each linking back to the program. The register is append-only and published as plain files with independent mirrors, so it outlives any one website — including the register's own.
2. **A consolidated index of the program's own record**, returned as a file the program owns outright, in the same submission format. Most programs have never had their history in one machine-readable place.
3. **A Lineage Number for each named successor**, which that person can cite for the rest of their working life. For an apprentice who finished a program ten years ago and has nothing to show for it, this is the part that matters.

4. **A free filing route for alumni** who want their own practice recorded in real detail. The program neither administers nor is responsible for that; it happens directly between the register and the practitioner.

## The format

Two files, or one. A CSV of entries plus a small JSON file carrying the program block and the attestation — or a single JSON document containing both. The schema is published at [rootandbranch.org/schema/lineage-entry-bulk/0.1.json](https://rootandbranch.org/schema/lineage-entry-bulk/0.1.json).

### Entry fields

| Field           | Required | What it holds                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| local_id        | no       | The program's own identifier, carried through so later corrections can be matched without guessing.                                                             |
| cycle_year      | yes      | The award or cohort year, as a four-digit number.                                                                                                               |
| master_name     | no       | Omit entirely if the program does not publish it. Do not write a placeholder — a blank is a fact, "N/A" is noise, and the validator rejects it.                 |
| successor_name  | no       | Omit if not published. Many programs name only the grant holder; that is a fact about the record, not a defect to paper over.                                   |
| successor_count | no       | Where one master taught a cohort. Use instead of successor_name, never alongside it.                                                                            |
| practice        | yes      | As the program names it, in the trade's own words. Do not translate it into an occupation code — the whole point is that occupation codes cannot see practices. |
| location        | no       | County, city or region. Never a street address.                                                                                                                 |
| source_url      | yes      | Where the program published this pairing. An entry nobody can check is not an entry.                                                                            |
| consent         | yes      | One of four values. See below — this is the field that decides what happens.                                                                                    |
| notes           | no       | Anything the program wants carried with the entry.                                                                                                              |

### Consent, and what each value does

This is the field that decides everything, and it is deliberately the only one with a fixed vocabulary. A program cannot consent on a participant's behalf, and neither can a register.

| Value                              | Result       | Meaning                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| published_by_program               | publishes    | The program published these names itself. The register mirrors what is already public and links back.                            |
| participants_consented_to_register | publishes    | Consent on file that covers a third-party register.                                                                              |
| participant_declined               | withheld     | Never published. Carried only so the program's own totals reconcile against the register's.                                      |
| unknown                            | counted only | Held as an aggregate count and never as a name. Common and expected for older cohorts, whose consent forms pre-date any of this. |

*A blank consent field is an error, not a default. The validator refuses the file rather than guessing.*

## The attestation

One statement, made by a person authorized to speak for the program, copied verbatim. It is narrow on purpose: it says a pairing happened and says nothing whatever about how well anyone worked.

*"I am authorized to make this statement for the program named above. Each entry in this file records a pairing the program administered or funded. The program does not attest that any practice was performed well, and makes no statement about any participant's skill. Every entry is drawn from material the program has already published, or from records the program holds and is free to share."*

If the program cannot accept that sentence as written, this format is not right for the program and nothing should be sent. The validator checks the wording exactly and will not accept a paraphrase.

## The validator

A single Python file, no installation, no dependencies, no network. It reads the export, reports every problem with the line it is on, and prints what would and would not be published before anything leaves the building.

```
python3 validate.py entries.csv --program program.json
```

```
entries.csv: 8 entries
```

```
What would happen to these entries:
```

```

4 publishes      published_by_program
1 publishes      participants_consented_to_register
1 withheld       participant_declined
2 counted only   unknown
```

```
6 entries name both parties and can carry a Lineage Number.
```

```
Conforming. This file can be submitted as it stands.
```

```
Nothing has been sent anywhere – this script does not touch the network.
```

**If the validator says the file conforms, it conforms.** Nobody at the register gets to decide otherwise afterwards. That is the point of shipping the check rather than performing it on receipt.

## The legal position, briefly

| Who          | What they warrant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The program  | That it is authorized to make the attestation, that each entry records a pairing it administered or funded, and that the material is either already published or held and free to share. Nothing else.                                                                               |
| The register | That entries publish only as the consent field directs; that every entry links back to the program as source; that an entry is removed on the program's written request, and on a participant's; and that no fee is ever charged to the program or to a participant for any of this. |
| Neither      | Makes any statement about the quality of any person's work. A Lineage Number is not an occupational license, a competence credential or a warranty of workmanship, and every page carrying one says so.                                                                              |

**License.** Submitted entries are published under share-alike terms, so the independent mirrors that make the record durable can lawfully hold a full copy. The program keeps everything it had: this is a license to publish, not an assignment, and it takes nothing away from the program's own use of its own material.

## Corrections and withdrawal

- **A program may correct or withdraw any entry** at any time, in writing, without giving a reason. Corrections publish with the correction attributed to the program.
- **A participant may withdraw their own name** directly, without going through the program. The Lineage Number, the fact and date of the entry and the practice itself survive that withdrawal — the first two are not personal data and the last belongs to the trade. Every participant is told that boundary before anything about them publishes.

- **The register never edits an entry silently.** The record is append-only; a correction is a new state with the old one still visible, and a withdrawal is recorded as having happened.

### If the program wants none of this

Then the consolidated index of the program's own published record is still available, free and unconditionally, as a file the program owns outright, with the gaps in it marked honestly. It is offered whether or not anything else follows, and asking for it creates no obligation of any kind.

*Root & Branch Register Inc. · Bulk Lineage Entry format v0.1 · September 2026. This kit, the JSON schema and the validator are published together; where the kit and the published Transmission Standard differ, the Standard governs.*