



Old Independence Regional Museum

FIELD TRIP PLANNING GUIDE



2021-2022

Field Trip Planning Guide

Build your Experience

Welcome to Old Independence Regional Museum! We will work with you to create and customize a tour and/or programs to meet the needs of your group, grade level or curriculum. We proudly offer hands-on and demonstration programs and living histories that may be scheduled alone or in addition to a tour. By using this resource, you may customize your visit to fit the needs of your class. The target audience for these programs is children; however, some of the programs can be scheduled for teacher in-services or for groups other than schools. Our tours can accommodate groups up to 120. Our programs are limited to smaller groups and should be scheduled at least two weeks in advance. (A rotating schedule of programs can sometimes be used to provide programming for larger groups.) Program descriptions, fees, group limits, and times are denoted in this guide.

A visit to the **gift shop** may be added to your tour. There students will find a variety of fun and educational items priced for kids' budgets. For the teachers' convenience, our gift shop personnel will package and label the students' purchases and keep them at the front desk during the remainder of the tour. Before the group's departure, a teacher will pick up the students' packages and distribute them at a time that suits you.

Field trip grants and bus stipends are sometimes available for area schools.

Because of a generous donation from a private sponsor, our museum is pleased to be able to offer a limited number of field trip grants to schools in our region.

Participants in the grant program will visit the gift shop as part of their tour.

Please contact the museum for more details and for a grant application.

Contact the museum at (870)793-2121 or oirn.educator@gmail.com to schedule your experience.

This humanities program is made possible by local support from Independence County and the City of Batesville, as well as by Challenge Grant Endowment funding from the National Endowment of the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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STEP INTO HISTORY TOUR

When you visit Old Independence Regional Museum your group will have the opportunity to explore our region's rich cultural heritage through our regular tour program. Your tour will involve 1-6 stops.

In our ***Traveling from Here to There*** exhibit students will discover how travel in our region has evolved over time. Focusing on boat, wagon, train, automobile, and plane travel, this exhibit features a 1940s Springfield covered wagon, a 1930s gas station and gravity gas pump, and a 1980s hang glider.

Shawneetown explores Native American life in our region, examining the culture of the Shawnee who settled in present day Yellville, AR.

In ***Where the Delta Meets the Ozarks***, a Depression Era Back Porch creates a great atmosphere for discussing what life was like for families in our region during the Great Depression. Topics include how people "made do," the roles of children, and how families survived during difficult economic times.

The **Civil War** exhibit showcases life in Batesville during the war. Students will hear about what daily life was like for soldiers and civilians in occupied Batesville. Battlefield medicine, crude and primitive, will also be discussed.

Students can experience some of the pastimes of children from the 19th century in OIRM's **Historic Toys and Games** program. Learn how playing taught children skills that they would use throughout life.

Special exhibit in 2021: Batesville Bicentennial highlights the earliest days of this historic town and the entrepreneurs who shaped it. The exhibit also traces the development of St. Louis and Harrison Streets from bypass roads to main arteries for the community.

Fee: \$1 Limit: 120 Time: 2 hours Grades: K-12

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Our programs are made to provide extra programming in addition to a tour for a full day's adventure or to stand alone for a brief outing. Since program space is often limited, more than one program can be scheduled so rotating sessions can accommodate larger groups.

Native American Programs

A –Maize—ing— Corn was a very important crop to the Native Americans and early settlers who lived in our region. During this program students will learn about the many uses of corn. They will grind corn using a mortar and pestle, play a round of corn cob darts, and make a corn husk boy or girl to take home.
Fee: \$2 Limit: 30 Time: 60 minutes Grades: 3-6

In A Pinch— Clay was like a treasure trove for Native Americans. A museum interpreter will discuss several of the ways clay was used and how clay pottery was discovered. Students will create a pinch pot, animal effigy, or pendant out of clay.
Fee: \$2 Limit: 30 Time: 30 minutes Grades: K-6

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Pioneer Programs

Churn Butter Churn— For families living long ago, butter was churned at home once a week and was often a chore for children. It was a time consuming yet rewarding process. Students visiting the museum will learn about the science and history of butter making. They will experience first-hand the work butter churning required. At the end of the program students will be able to sample the result of their hard work.

Fee: \$1 Limit: 30 Time: 30 minutes Grades: K-6

Say Cheese!— Ever wonder how cheese is made? During this program a museum guide will read a selection from Little House in the Big Woods and will lead a discussion about how cheese was made long ago and the science behind it. The guide will then demonstrate how to make soft cheese. The program will end with a sampling of the cheese.

Fee: \$1 Limit: 30 Time: 30-45 minutes Grades: 3-6

A Light in the Corner— This program explores various lighting sources used during the pioneer period of Independence County. Learn why candles were the chosen light source for many homes in the earliest days of the county. Children spent time in the fall dipping enough candles to light the dark corners of the family home in the winter. How many dips does it take just to make one candle? Students will learn the answer to this by making their own beeswax candle to take home.

Fee: \$2 Limit: 60 Time: 30 minutes Grades: 3-6

Homestead— Students will be asked to construct their own miniature version of a homestead using various materials. Participants will use problem solving skills to trade for needed materials and improvise with existing materials, all while learning about the basic needs of an early pioneer. The group will discuss their finished creations which they will then take home.

Fee: \$2 Limit: 30 Time: 60 minutes Grades: 3-12

Civil War Programs

Blister, Purge and Amputate— This program will begin with a discussion of common illnesses, injuries, and diseases during the Civil War. Students will learn about what treatments were available and how medicine differed between the North and the South. A museum interpreter will discuss battlefield medicine and how amputation was sometimes the only treatment available. This program is not for the squeamish!!! Students will take a simple quiz about some of the things they learned and will have an opportunity to sample some "cures."

Fee: \$1 Limit: 30 Time: 30-60 minutes Grades: 3-12

A Soldier's Life— The Museum is located on the site of a Union encampment. Students will learn about what life was like for a soldier encamped and on the battlefield. The program will end with students taking up their (wooden) rifles and participating in military drills on the museum's side lawn.

Limited Availability

Fee: \$1 Limit: 30 Time: 30 minutes Grades: 3-12

Great Depression and WWII Programs

My Fair Share— During World War II a rationing system was put in place to make sure everyone was able to get their fair share. Students will participate in a game, developed by the museum staff, that explores this system. Students will be divided into families, and they will have to work together to solve a problem using their ration stamps and money. They may also have to work with their neighbors to get what they need, just as people did during WWII.

Fee: \$1 Limit: 30 Time: 60 minutes Grades: 6-12

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Other Programs

Trains— Improvements to train technology and the expansion of rail systems into the western United States during the 19th century helped shape our region's industry, economy, and society. Students will learn about the importance of the transcontinental railway and corresponding telegraph system, train travel practices and customs, train wrecks, and train uses and robberies.

Fee: \$1 Limit: 80 Time: 60 minutes Grades: 2-6

In addition to the Trains program, you may add a **craft session** where students will make a related craft to take home with them.

Fee: Add \$1 Limit: 80 Time: Add 30 minutes Grades: K-6

Wild History— Students will explore the balance between man and wildlife in the settling of Independence County using the four E's: endemic, endangered, extirpated, and extinct. Hands-on materials make this a fun learning opportunity for students.

Fee: \$1 Limit: 80 Time: 60 minutes Grades: K-6

In addition to the Wild History program, you may add a **craft session** where students will make a related craft to take home with them.

Fee: Add \$1 Limit: 80 Time: Add 20 minutes Grades: K-6

Whose Tracks are These?— During this 30-minute program, a museum interpreter will read a story and lead a discussion about animal tracks and signs. The students will complete various tracking activities.

Fee: \$1 Limit: 30 Time: 30 minutes Grades: K-4

Arkansas or Arkansaw— Museum interpreters will lead students in a study about Arkansas. Students will learn how the state got its name, the meaning behind the colors and symbols on the state flag, and about the other state symbols. Students will then test their knowledge by playing a trivia game.

Fee: \$1 Limit: 30 Time: 30 minutes Grades: K-4

Food Preservation - In this interactive program students will sample foods that were preserved using a variety of methods. Food Preservation has existed in all cultures since the beginning of time. The students will explore different preservation methods and how climate, technology, human ingenuity and pure accident played a role in its discovery. Students will also learn about some of the health benefits and hazards of different preservation methods.

Fee: \$2 Limit: 30 Time: 30 minutes Grades: 3-12

Influenza - Students will learn about the 1918 worldwide Influenza outbreak. They will participate in a science experiment that shows how contagion is spread and moves through the population.

Fee: \$2 Limit: 30 Time: 30 minutes Grades: 4-12

Local Historical Research - Students will work in the museum's research library. They will become familiar with some of the documents and research tools the museum has to offer. This program is designed for 7th – 12th grade and is limited to 15 participants. This program can be directed to a particular area of study.

Fee: \$1 Limit: 15 Time: Varies Minutes Grades: 7-12

Museology: Behind the Scenes Tour - Students will take a behind the scenes tour of the museum. They will learn about museum professions and discover what it takes to preserve our region's past.

Fee: \$1 Limit: 30 Time: 60 minutes Grades: 7-12

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Living History Presentations

Living History Presentations are dependent on volunteer availability.

“I Am Not a Spy”—Students will be visited by Emily Weaver, a teenager from Batesville who was accused and convicted of spying during the Civil War. Although sentenced to death, Emily escaped from prison, eventually making her way home to Batesville. Emily’s story illustrates how many families were divided by the Civil War. Students will also learn about the “social whirl” that took place in Batesville during the war years. Following the living history performance, students will learn the “secret language of the fan”, a code used by ladies to communicate with their friends or suitors. students will practice codes using their own fans which they will take home. *Limited Availability*
Fee: \$2 Limit: 30 Time: 30 minutes Grades: 3-12

Olyphant Train Robbery— One of the most notable train robberies in this area was the Olyphant Train Robbery. This living history reenactment for smaller groups will have participants on the edge of their seats! *Limited Availability*
Fee: \$2 Limit: 50 Time: 20 minutes Grades: 2-6

From Oklahoma with Love— In the museum’s theater, students will be visited by Pearl Taylor. Mrs. Taylor moved from Batesville to Oklahoma with her husband and daughters in the 1930s. In this living history presentation, taken from Mrs. Taylor’s letters written to her father, students will hear in her own words what life was like for the Taylor family during the Great Depression. Students will create and take home a pressed flower bookmark. *Limited Availability*
Fee: \$2 Limit: 60 Time: 30 minutes Grades: 3-12

Hello, Betty Lou— Students will experience a living history visit with Betty Lou Gower. Raised in the Batesville Masonic Orphanage, she moved to New York during WWII to take a job as an elevator girl. She was working in the Sears Tower when it was accidentally hit by an aircraft bomber. Students will hear her adventures and learn how she still holds a place in the Guinness World Records. *Limited Availability*
Fee: \$1 Limit: 50 Time: 30 minutes Grades: 3-12

My Life with the Shawnee— This living history presentation allows students to converse with Abraham Ruddell. Ruddell was an early Batesville pioneer who had been captured by the Shawnee at age 5. He was adopted by the Shawnee and wasn’t reunited with his remaining family until he was in his late teens. Learn about his childhood with the Shawnee, his service during the war of 1812 and what life was like in early Batesville. *Limited Availability*
Fee: \$1 Limit: 30 Time: 30-45 minutes Grades: 2-9

Contact the museum to schedule your experience!

(870)793-2121
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www.oirm.org