

# Old Independence Regional Museum's



## Field Trip Planning Guide

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### Step into History

When you visit Old Independence Regional Museum your group will have the opportunity to explore our region's rich cultural heritage. Your tour will begin at our map, will involve 1-6 stops, and will include the following themes:

In our *Region on the Move* exhibit students will discover how travel in our region has evolved over time. The tour will focus on wagon, train, and automobile travel. It features a 1940s Springfield covered wagon, a 1930s gas station and gravity gas pump, and a 1904 Brougham Carriage.

*Shawneetown* explores Native American life in our region. This part of the tour examines the culture of the Shawnee who settled in present day Yellville, AR.

Our *Where the Delta Meets the Ozarks* exhibit is highlighted by the Depression Era Back Porch. We discuss what life was like for families in our region during the Great Depression and how people "made do". Attention may also be given to the role of the child in the family.

The temporary exhibit that is on view may also be included in this tour.

Old Independence Regional Museum's **historic toys and games** program gives students an opportunity to experience some of the pastimes of children from the 19th century. Discover toys and games that were made at home from materials that were readily available. Learn how playing taught children skills that they would use throughout life.

When a **gift shop** visit is added to the **Step into History** tour, it becomes one of the stops on the tour. There students will find a variety of fun and educational items priced for their pocket book. 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.

Because of a generous donation from a private funder, our museum is pleased to be able to offer a limited number of field trip grants to schools in our 12-county region. This grant covers the 6-stop **Step into History** tour. Please contact the museum for more details and for a grant application.

### Build your Experience

The museum offers the following 30-60 minute living history, hands-on and/or demonstration programs that may be scheduled alone or in-addition to a Step into History tour, **for a fee**. Using

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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. These programs are limited to smaller groups and must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance. See program descriptions for fees, group limits, and program length. Contact the museum, 793-2121, to schedule your experience.

### 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. This program is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> grade and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for the program is \$3 per person. **Note: This program will take 1 hour.**

**Clayworks** – 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. This program is designed for K–2<sup>nd</sup> grade and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$2.

**Pictographs** were symbols that were used by Native Americans to represent ideas and communicate stories. Students will examine historic Native American pictographs and the materials used to produce them. Students will then use pictographs to write their own story. This program is designed for grades 3<sup>rd</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this 30 minute program is \$2.

### Pioneer Programs

**Charlie Needs a Cloak** is about a shepherd who shears his sheep, cards the wool, spins, weaves and dyes the cloth, and finally sews a new cloak. During this 30-minute program, a museum interpreter will read the story and lead a discussion about sheep shearing, carding, and natural dyeing. Students will have the opportunity to feel the sheep's wool, see some of the plants that can be used for dyeing, and try their hand at carding. A spinning demonstration will conclude the program. This program is designed for K–2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The fee for this program is \$1 per student. There is a 30 student limit.

**Churn Butter Churn** – For families living long ago butter was churned at home once a week and was often a chore for children. This 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 that went into it. At the end of the program students will be able to sample the result of their hard work. This program is designed for K–4<sup>th</sup> grade. The fee for this program is \$1 per student and is limited to 30 students.

**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. There is some science behind it! The guide will then demonstrate how a soft cheese is made.

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The program will end with a taste of the cheese. This program is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The program fee is \$1 and is limited to 30 students.

**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 first hand as they make a dipped beeswax candle to take home. This program is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The fee is \$2 per student and is limited to 60 students.

**Dyed in the Wool** – This popular phrase was derived from the wool dyeing process. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century and earlier, native plants were used to achieve desired colors. Student will identify several local plants and a museum interpreter will discuss the wool dyeing process and how color is extracted from each of the plants. Students will also see how this wool is then turned into yarn that could be used for knitting or weaving. In the end students will receive a recipe for dyeing with onion skins and will dye a piece of cloth to take home. This program is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$1. **Note:: This program is 45 minutes.**

**What do you see?**— Optical illusions trick the brain into thinking it sees something different from what is actually there. Toys that produced optical illusions became very popular in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Students will learn about the science behind some optical illusions and will make a thaumatrope and will design a wooden top to take home. This program is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup>—6<sup>th</sup> grades and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$3

**Headed West**—Students will learn about the trials and triumphs of the westward movement during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After a brief introduction, students will form families of 5 and plan their trip west. Along the way they may run into accidents, attacks, bad weather, or disease. Each family's survival will depend upon how well they have planned for their trip. This program is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders and is limited to 40 participants. The fee for this program is \$1.

**Goldenrod was used for what?** —Students will visit the museum's heritage garden, located on the side lawn. An interpreter will identify goldenrod and several plants from our region and will discuss their medicinal and other uses. This program is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade. The fee for this program is \$1.

**Yarb Woman**—Students will visit with yarb woman, from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in her garden. Yarb women were well versed about local plants and their uses. She will discuss common ailments that were treated naturally with teas, tinctures, and poultices made from local plants with the students. The fee for this program is \$1 and space is limited to 30 students.

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For an additional \$1 fee, students will be able to grind herbs and try an herbal remedy or mint tea. These program additions will be dictated by which plants are in season.

### Civil War Programs

**Freedom Quilts**—This program will begin with a discussion of the Underground Railroad and how quilt patterns are thought to have been used to send messages. The museum interpreter will read “Patchwork to Freedom”, and the program will end with students piecing a grade appropriate paper quilt block. This program is designed for 3rd—6th grade. Note: This program may take more than 30 minutes.

**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 rifles and participating in military drills on the museum’s side lawn. The fee for this program is \$2 and is limited to 30 students.

**“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 when soldiers were encamped in Batesville. Following the living history performance, students will learn the “secret language of the fan”, a code used by young ladies during the Victorian era to communicate across a crowded room with their friends or suitors. A museum interpreter will demonstrate the language, and students will receive a handout detailing the code. **This is a living history presentation and is designed for 3rd-12th grade. This fee for this program is \$2. For an additional fee of \$1 students will make a fan to take home.. This program is limited to 30 students.**

### Great Depression and WWII Programs

**Making Music** – The Great Depression was a challenging time for most living in the Independence County region. To lift their spirits folks came together to listen to the radio, tell stories, and make music, and not having money to buy instruments did not stop them. Many made do with homemade instruments. While visiting the museum students will learn some ways people entertained themselves during the Great Depression, with focus being given to music. Students will be able to try their hands at the museum’s collection of “make do” instruments and make a set of spoons that they will learn to play and take home. This program is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The program fee is \$3. This program is limited to 30 students.

**Mistakes that Worked!** – This program explores inventions that happened by accident. In World War II scientists were asked to invent a rubber substitute, since rubber was in short supply. No good product was made, but one fun toy that came out of this process was Silly Putty. Students

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will learn about Silly Putty and other inventions that were mistakes. In the end students will make their own Silly Putty to take home. This program is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$3.

**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. This program is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade s and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$2. **Note: This program is one hour.**

**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. **This living history program is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. The fee for this program is \$2 and is limited to 60 students.**

In addition to this living history program, students can learn more about the Great Depression and what kinds of gifts people were giving. Most were homemade from objects found around their homes. Students will create and take home a pressed flower bookmark. **The craft portion of this program is designed for 3<sup>rd</sup>—6<sup>th</sup> grades. The fee for this addition to the program is \$1. Note: If you choose to add the pressed flower bookmarker the program will be 45 minutes.**

### For Older Students:

**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 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade and is limited to 15 participants. The fee for this program is \$3 and is only offered on Tuesdays. **Note: This is a one hour long program.**

**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. This program is designed for 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade and is limited to 30 participants. This fee for this program is \$1. **Note: This is a one hour long program.**

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