

# Old Independence Regional Museum's



2015  
Field Trip Planning Guide

## Field Trip Planning Guide

### 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 involve 1-7 stops, and may 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.

*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 tour of the *Civil War* exhibit will feature Batesville's role in the war. In addition, the students will hear about what daily life was like for a soldiers and civilians in occupied Batesville. Battlefield medicine will also be discussed.

The temporary exhibit that is currently on view is *Living with the White River*. Students will discover how the river influenced settlement and how people traveled along the river.

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 7-stop Step into History tour. Please contact the museum for more details and for a grant application.

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### Build your Experience

We will work with you to create and customize a tour to meet the needs of your group, grade level or curriculum needs. 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 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 should 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-5<sup>th</sup> grade and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$2.

**Artifacts & Archaeology** – Students will examine and discuss a variety of stone artifacts. A museum interpreter will speak about the Mississippian era and the settlement that was located in Greenbrier Bottoms. The group will learn how artifacts tell stories of how people lived in the past and how the “trash pit” is often a treasure trove of information for archaeologists. This program is designed for K-12th grade and is limited to 30 participants and takes 30 minutes. 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 3rd-6th and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this 30 minute program is \$2.

**Whose Tracks are These?** is a story about the tracks of common forest animals. During this 30-minute program, a museum interpreter will read the story and lead a discussion about animal tracks and signs. The students will complete various tracking activities . This program is designed for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade. The fee for this program is \$1 per student. There is a 30 student limit.

**My Life with the Shawnee** This living history presentation allows students to converse with Abraham Ruddell. Ruddell was a 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. This program is designed for grades 2nd-9th and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$2.

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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. 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. The program will end with a taste of the cheese. This program is designed for 3rd – 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.

**Headed West**—Students will learn about the trials and triumphs of the westward movement during the 19th 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 3rd-6th graders and is limited to 40 participants. The fee for this program is \$1.

**Wild West's Colorful Characters** – Students are introduced to many of the individuals who shaped our view of the "Wild West". From explorers to settlers to outlaws and lawmen, a interpreter will tell stories and facts about their lives and adventures. Each student will receive collectable fact cards at the close of the program. This program is designed for 2nd – 8th graders and is limited to 50 participants. The fee for this program is \$2. Note: this program can be customized.

**Coming Soon – Exploring Arkansas** – Students will learn about Arkansas explorers including, DeSoto, Hunter & Dunbar, Gerstacker and Schoolcraft. A Museum interpreter will introduce students to some of their writings and observations. The group will discuss the adventures and perils of exploration and how explorers influenced the perception of Arkansas and Arkansans. Students will be asked to draw their own version of a map of Arkansas. This program is designed for 3rd – 8th grades and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$2.

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### Heritage Garden Programs

**Dyes and Medicines** —Students will visit the museum's heritage garden, located on the side lawn. An interpreter will identify goldenrod and other plants from our region and will discuss their uses. This program is designed for 3rd-6th grade. The fee is \$1 and space is limited to 30 students. For an additional fee of \$2 students will learn more about the dyeing process. A Museum interpreter will explain the process of extracting color from plants and how wool becomes yarn then cloth. In the end, students will receive a recipe for dyeing with onion skins and will dye a piece of cloth to take home. Note: This program is 1 hour.

**Herb Woman**— Students will visit the herb woman's garden. Herb women were well versed about local plants and their uses. They will learn about common ailments of the past 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.

For an addition \$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

**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." This program is designed for 3rd-8th grade. The fee for this program is \$2 and it is limited to 30 students. 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 in 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 young ladies to communicate with their friends or suitors. 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. Note: The full program will take an hour.

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### African American 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. The fee for this program is \$2. Note: This program may take more than 30 minutes.

**Coming Soon – Walking in Someone Else's Shoes** – Museum interpreters will lead a discussion about Civil Rights. Students will then learn about segregation and "separate but equal". Students will be divided into two groups and will role play how segregation impacted the daily lives of people in Arkansas. This program is designed for 4th –8th grades and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$TBA. Note: This will be a ? hour Program.

**Coming Soon – Bass Reeves** – Students will hear about the life and times of legendary Arkansas lawman Bass Reeves. Reeves was born a slave and later hired as the first African American U.S. Marshall under Judge Isaac Parker. This living history program is designed for 3th –8th grades and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$2. Note: This will be a ? hour Program.

### 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, – 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 2nd – 7<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 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>–8<sup>th</sup> grade and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$3.

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**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>-12<sup>th</sup> grades 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>-12th 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 bookmarker. The craft portion of this program is designed for 3rd—6th 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.

**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 Sear's 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 Book of World Records. This living history is designed for 3rd – 12th grades. The fee for this program is \$2 and is limited to 50 students.

## Other Programs

**Dig It** – Students will participate in a staged "archeological dig" during this program. Explore how archeologists dig, catalog, clean, repair and research artifacts from the past. Museum Interpreters will explain how archaeologists use found artifacts to study past civilizations. This program is designed for 3rd-12th grades. A fee of \$3 is charged for this program. Note: The full program will take 60 minutes. For an additional fee of \$2 students can make a necklace out of a replica arrowhead.

**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 19th 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 3rd—6th grades and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$3

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**Coming Soon - 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 listen to songs about Arkansas and will create a advertisement for the state. This program is designed for K-4th grades and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$TBA. There will be an added craft available for an additional fee.

**Coming Soon - Natural Disasters** - Museum interpreters will introduce students to a variety of natural disasters that happened within our region including: earthquakes, floods, tornadoes and fires. Students will be explore different primary and secondary accounts of these events and the aftermath. This program is designed for 3rd-12th grades and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$TBA. There will be an added craft available for an additional fee.

**Coming Soon - Meeting the Neighbors** - In this fun cultural adventure, the group will be divided into two neighboring tribes. Each tribe will have it's own customs and trade items. The two groups will then role play an interaction between the tribes and write down their observations. This program is designed for 4th - 12th grades and is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$TBA. Note: This is a one hour program.

**Coming Soon - Trial by Jury** - Museum interpreters will explain the trial process and then students will be presented with details of a historic court case. Participants will be divided and assigned roles as attorneys, witnesses, jury members, etc... After each student researches their role a mock trial will be held and a verdict will be given. Students will compare their verdict with the historical verdict that was reached. This program is designed for 5th - 12th grades and can be customized. This program is limited to 30 participants. The fee for this program is \$TBA. Note: This is a ? Hour program.

**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. This program can be directed to a particular area of study. The fee for this program is \$3. 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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School Tour Grants are sometimes available.

Please check with the Museum at 870-793-2121 for eligibility requirements and forms.

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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.