



## **Museum of the Cape Fear**

### **Teacher's Packet for Museum Tours**

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex has a 20 year history of partnering with schools to help educate the youth in our area. We have served schools from a number of North Carolina counties including: Harnett, Johnston, Robeson, Wake, Hoke, Sampson, and Cumberland.

With a guided tour of the Museum of the Cape Fear, students will see artifacts, experience stories, and step into environments that reveal culture and diversity, historic perspectives, geographic relationships, economics and development, as well as technological influences in a variety of periods from pre-contact American Indians through the first decades of the 20th century. Students are invited to approach North Carolina's history in such a way that arouses curiosity, stresses critical thinking and connects the past to the present.

Another tour experience is available in our historic house museum, the 1897 Poe House. The former residence of local businessman E. A. Poe and his family offers students an in-depth look at a specific time period. Traveling room by room, surrounded by the material culture of the era, students feel life from the Gilded Age to The Great War. Students are challenged to evaluate the impact of political, economic, social, and technological changes on life in North Carolina from 1870 to 1920. At its most basic level, the 1897 Poe House presents a now and then approach to history while offering the opportunity to embrace challenging topics such as domestic servants, segregation, gender roles, social classes, and more.

## **Scheduling Your Tour:**

When you are ready to schedule your tour, call the museum at (910) 486-1330. We require a minimum of two weeks notice for guided group tours. Have a few dates selected as options or at least a first and second choice. Tours of the historical complex are offered Tuesday through Friday at 10:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. (earlier start times available upon request).

When scheduling a tour, teachers can choose from a few options. The tour times listed below are approximate. Please allow for adequate travel and tour times.

**1. Museum and Poe House tour –2 hrs. 30 min.**

**2. Museum tour – only 1 hr. 15 min.**

**3. Poe House tour – only 1 hr. 15 min.**

Plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to your scheduled tour time. Groups arriving 20 or more minutes after their scheduled tour time may lose the opportunity for a guided tour.

Arsenal Park is another part of the historical complex and is available as a self-guided tour option. Teachers can lead their students over to Arsenal Park via the footbridge across Hwy 87. Signage in the park, particularly near the Ghost Tower, helps to explain the history of the arsenal and its destruction by General Sherman in 1865. Teachers should allow additional time to explore Arsenal Park.

At the teacher's discretion, students can shop in our gift shop, located in the museum. Items that reflect the history and culture of North Carolina are available and many popular items for students are priced between \$.25 and \$6.00. Teachers should allow an additional 20 minutes for shopping, which is not included in the tour times above. When making your reservation, please be prepared to let the museum know whether or not the group will shop.

## **Additional Tour Information:**

A maximum of 75 students can tour at a time. The total number of students will be divided equally into groups. This means that classes may need to be split up or combined to accommodate tour procedures.

Chaperones are needed for each group at a ratio of 1 chaperone for every 10 students. Chaperones should remain with their group throughout the tour. The chaperone's role is to enhance the positive atmosphere for learning on tour by encouraging attentiveness, participation, and appropriate behavior.

Directions to the museum can be found on our website:

[www.museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov](http://www.museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov). Bus parking is located on Bradford Ave. directly in front of the museum. Buses should park along Bradford Ave. and avoid turning onto Arsenal Ave. or into the museum's parking lot which are very narrow and do not accommodate buses well.

Picnic facilities are located at Rowan Park, just two blocks away. Rowan Park is operated by Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks and Recreation. For more information, visit [www.fcpr.us](http://www.fcpr.us) or call (910) 433-1547.

In planning your visit, know that some teachers combine the experience of touring our facility with that of other museum and cultural venues in town. The Airborne and Special Operations Museum, The North Carolina State Veterans Park, Fayetteville Area Transportation and Local History Museum, Fascinate-U Children's Museum, and The Cape Fear Botanical Garden are all located nearby, in the Greater Downtown Fayetteville area.

## **Pre Visit Activities:**

Teachers should visit our website and are welcome to visit the historical complex prior to their class visit. Your ability to make classroom connections with your students is very valuable to the overall experience. We encourage teachers to prepare their students for the field trip. The activities listed below may help students have a better understanding of what to expect during their visit and offer a bit of background information.

- Explore the geography of the Cape Fear region with your students. Have students identify geographical features such as Cape Fear, the Cape Fear River, the Outer Banks, the Appalachian Mountains, the Pamlico Sound, the Albemarle Sound, and the Atlantic Ocean. An understanding of North Carolina's borders and locations of cities such as Fayetteville, Wilmington, Edenton, Greensboro, and Raleigh will be beneficial on tour. Have students use historical maps to compare and contrast them with modern maps. Encourage students to consider how geography played a role in North Carolina's history.
- Explore museums and their role as educational and cultural resources for communities. Have students define terms such as museum, gallery, interpretation, artifact, archaeology, exhibit, preservation, and living history. Research museums and cultural institutions that exist in the Fayetteville community or North Carolina as a whole. Encourage students to consider how communities can benefit from cultural institutions like museums as well as learn about a wide variety of ways that museums preserve and present history.
- Explore the class's interest and access to history. Take a class or grade level survey, asking for information such as what is your favorite time period in history, person in history, book about history, etc. Poll students to learn how many watch The History Channel; have been to a historic site, battlefield, or museum, etc. Present or publish the survey results for the grade or school to see. Have students bring an item or picture of an item that is part of their own family's history or genealogy and share that story with the class. Encourage students to make connections to their favorite historical time periods or topics and consider how their own personal history is connected to a much larger picture.

## **Post Visit Materials:**

Keep the momentum of the field trip experience alive with one or more of these activities once you return to the classroom.

- Have your students write thank you letters, make cards, or a banner for the museum's docents. They can describe what they saw, learned, or experienced during the visit as well as include any photographs or drawings. You can also send thank you items to The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. Our museum is part of NCDCCR's Division of State History Museums.

Office of the Secretary, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
109 East Jones Street, MSC 4601  
Raleigh, NC 27699

- Have your students compile photos, stories, and favorite things about the visit into a multimedia presentation or website. With parental and administrative approval, the presentation can be put on the school's website or the museum's (or both).
- Make a classroom timeline of North Carolina history. A banner spanning the perimeter of the classroom can highlight famous and not-so-famous North Carolinians, inventions, events, battles, and leaders. Fill in gaps with U.S. history information and continue the timeline up through the present by including the school's, teacher's, and student's history too.
- Encourage students to take others to the museum. They can extend their experience to others by bringing their family and friends to the museum. Whether it is a lazy weekend day, school holiday, or special event at the museum, museum staff enjoy seeing and talking with student visitors. Who knows, the student may become a summer camp participant, volunteer, or future museum professional.

**The Final Step of Your Tour Experience:** One to two weeks after your tour, museum staff will email you a link to an online survey. This quick questionnaire will provide us your feedback and help us learn more about your visit and improve our services. Your responses are very important to us so please take a moment to complete the questionnaire when it arrives and encourage your fellow teachers to do the same.