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EXPERIENCE HISTORY!

The Civil War is a complicated part of U.S. History, dealing with slavery, war, and limited technologies.

Join us for a day of Living History, as students meet President Lincoln, speak with a Civil War soldier from the south, and learn to square dance.

This Teacher's Guide provides resources to get you started in participating in our Civil War Hands-On History Day within our Village.

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MIDWAY VILLAGE MUSEUM

Our Mission

Midway Village Museum, the best institution for collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of the Rockford region, is committed to educating and enriching our community by providing state-of-the-art exhibits, programs, and events.

Our Vision

Midway Village Museum will be the primary institution where Rockford's diverse citizens gather to understand their community's past and to discuss the challenges of the future.

Our History

Midway Village Museum was organized in 1968 by the Swedish, Harlem, and Rockford Historical Societies for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of the Rockford area. It began with a donation of land by the Severin Family and has grown dramatically since.

In 1972, the original museum site was located on the eleven acres donated by the Severin Family; today the site encompasses 147 acres. The original 10,000 sq. ft. Museum Center facility opened in 1974. The Industrial Gallery opened in 1976. In 1986 the Exhibition Hall was built to link the previous two buildings together. In 1988, more galleries were opened, including the Aviation Gallery and the Carlson Education Gallery. Across the parking lot, the Old Dolls' House Museum was opened that same year. Today, the 52,700 sq. ft. Museum Center houses seven exhibition galleries, collections storage, classrooms, workrooms, administrative offices, library, audio-visual room, and the Museum Store. Renovations of the History Building have made the facility handicap accessible and made the Museum Center more visitor friendly. The Collection has grown to over 150,000 objects, including three-dimensional pieces, textiles, and archival material.

The development of the Museum's historic Village began in 1974. The Village is representative of a typical rural town in Northern Illinois at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Midway Village features 26 historical structures, including a general store, hardware store, print shop, blacksmith shop, schoolhouse, town hall, police station, plumbing shop, bank, hotel, hospital, fire station, church, barber shop, law office, two barns, and four farm houses.

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

We provide the perfect backdrop:

Our Civil War Hands-On History Days program provides a unique opportunity in immersive learning. We fill our 10 acre village with reenactors, reproduction and “genuine-article” artifacts, horses, cannons, and dancing.

During your visit, your students will have the opportunity to speak to soldiers, try hard tack, drill with mock muskets, and fire a cannon. History of the Civil War comes alive for four days a year! Come be a part of this unforgettable experience.

Within this Guide you will find:

- Answers to frequently asked questions
- Guidelines for while you are here
- Pre-Visit activities
- Activities during your visit
- Post-visit activities to extend the lessons within your classroom
- An appendix filled with resources to help you customize your learning experience



MAKE MEMORIES!

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR VISIT

When the Program is Offered

Civil War Hands-On History Days is offered Tuesday-Friday during the first week of May (9:30 am-2:00 pm). Exact dates are listed on our website in late November. Please reserve your spot early as Thursday and Friday dates fill up quickly.

Costs

The cost for this program is \$7 per student and \$1 per adult.

Typical Age Group for the Program

The Civil War Hands-On History Days fit best into the curriculum of 5th grade—8th grade.

Maximum Number of Students

There is no maximum number of students, as we take up to 1,200 students a day. However, we do recommend breaking into groups of 15-30 with 1 chaperone for every 10 students.

Typical Program Length

You will spend the day here at Midway Village, arriving at 9:30 am, and departing at 2:00pm. During your stay you will choose which sites to visit. Each site presentation lasts 13 minutes, with a 2 minute passing time.

Headliners

Before arriving at Midway Village (and after reserving your space), you will receive a notification confirming your reservation, along with an assigned Headliner and presentation time. While the presenters may vary year to year, past Headliners include President Lincoln, Mrs. Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Caroline Quarlls (an escaped slave). Headliner presentations last for 30 minutes. Once assigned, you may not change your headliner or headline time. If you miss the presentation, we cannot guarantee another time slot.

Typical Program Itinerary

Arrival at the museum at 9:30 am

- ◇ *When you arrive at Midway Village, you will join a line of buses. As your bus moves to the front of the line, all lead chaperones will be asked to step off the bus for a quick orientation. Then, you and your students will depart the bus to a “landing” area where you can drop off lunches, break into groups and go over expectations.*
- ◇ *Presentations begin at the start of each bell. Bells (rung in the church and schoolhouse), will ring every 15 minutes to signal passing time. Groups are able to visit any presentation they wish: please be aware that each site fills up on a first-come, first-serve basis (we recommend 30 students per station). A map of presentations will be sent out by email to you a few days before the program.*
- ◇ **Lunch**
Lunch is at 11:30 each day. All presentations stop at this time. If you choose to eat lunch before or after, please be aware that no presentations will be held from 11:30-12:00.
- ◇ **Headliners**
As mentioned above, headliners are scheduled by the Museum Educator and Special Events Coordinator before you arrive. Every student will see ONE headliner. Therefore scheduling is imperative, and Headliner and times cannot be changed the day of. If you would like to request a headliner, please do so when you send in your reservation. We cannot promise your first choice, but will do our best to accommodate you.

Everyone departs by 2:00pm. Your group may depart anytime you wish, but once you leave, re-admittance will not be granted.

How to reserve a date

If you have visited us in the past for Civil War Days, you will receive a reminder email with a reservation form in October. You may also download a reservation form from our website at:

www.midwayvillage.com/educators

Reservations must be made before the middle of April. For exact dates, please refer to our website.

For curriculum questions, or to reserve a date, please call our Education Department at 815-397-9112.



WHILE YOU ARE HERE

Restrooms

Restroom facilities are located in the Law Office, Red Barn, and Main Museum Center by the front and back doors.

Fresh Drinking Water

Fresh drinking water can be pumped from the community well, located adjacent to the Law Office (under the windmill). Modern water fountains are found out at the Red Barn and in the Main Museum Center by the front entrance.

Where to Eat Lunch

If it is nice out, you are welcome to picnic for lunch anywhere on our village grounds. There are a few picnic tables spread out around the village, but plan on eating on the grass.

If it rains, please plan to eat on your bus. There are limited areas within the Museum Center where food is permitted, and we cannot guarantee space.

Injuries and Severe Weather

Please report any injuries or other emergencies to the front desk inside the museum center, even if you are able to handle the problem without assistance. First Aid kits are available throughout the Village—please ask Museum personnel for assistance. For major injuries, we will have a First Aid station on the premises, as well as staff certified in CPR and other emergency procedures.

In the event of severe weather, Midway Village Museum staff will alert you and escort your class to a safe location. Please try to head to an open building. Staff will have radios on hand in case a building is full in order to escort you to the closest alternative.

Our Museum is Like Your Classroom

Please remind your students that the entire Midway Village Museum grounds are like a classroom, and that we appreciate their best behavior while visiting, particularly when in and near all the buildings. There is plenty of space in the Village for using up spare energy at recess time. As in your own classroom, smoking, gum, food and beverages are not allowed in the Village Buildings or Museum Center.

Parking

There is bus parking available within our main parking lot and Park Police will be onsite to direct traffic. However, we do suggest that if you come in cars to carpool as parking is limited. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.



Q&As AND FYIs

Q&As

Does the Village represent a particular place and time during the Civil War?

No. A *Reenactment* has a specific time and place. Our *Living History* day is more general, with reenactors or Living Historians represent a specific character, person, or representation in a very generic setting.

Will there be a battle?

No. Our goal is to present an education program which focuses on what everyday life was like for someone living during the period.

Is the gift shop open?

Yes. In our gift shop we sell a variety of dollar candies, small toys, and sodas. If you would like to spend some of your time in our gift shop, you are welcome to.

Can we buy lunch onsite?

No. Please have all visitors bring their own lunches.

FYIs

Clipboards for sale

If you are interested in providing clipboards to your students in order to complete assignments during their trip to Midway Village Museum, you can buy them cheaply (\$0.96 each) from bulkofficesupply.com

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Preparing For Your Visit

We recommend that you relate your class's experience to your current Social Studies program. Many teachers use the visit to cap a multi-week integrated unit on the history and culture of Illinois.

Several books on turn-of-the-century life are available in the Midway Village Museum store, as well as references at the public libraries. You may also consult primary materials in the Collections at Midway Village Museum by making arrangements in advance with the Curator of Collections and Exhibits. Please feel free to call Midway Village Museum with any questions.

Suggested Activities Include

A. Have students complete research projects on life in Illinois, national events, or personalities with great importance for this region during the years of the Civil War. Some examples are:

Clothing of the period	Dancing
The school day	Soap making and laundry
Uniforms and equipment	Women in the war (Harriet Tubman, Clara Barton)
Boys in the War	Life on the farm (butter making, sheep shearing, etc)
War tactics	
Baseball	

B. Have students research and play games of the period (1860s). Some games include:

Shadow Puppets	Ring Toss
Shadow's Bluff	Consequences
Blind Man's Bluff	Follow the Leader
Hunt the Ring	Drawing the Oven
Drop the Handkerchief	Hopscotch
Fox and Geese	I Spy
Hide and Seek	Card Games
Leap Frog	Backgammon

Rules for several of these games can be found in the appendix.

- C. Have students read the Civil War letter found in the Appendices. Using the following prompts, have students critically analyze the letter. Then, have them predict what they might see during their visit to Midway Village based on what they have read.
1. What does this letters tell us about life as a soldier during the Civil War?
 2. Cite specific examples.
 3. List three to five positives about life as a soldier, based on the text you have read.
 4. List three to five negatives about life as a soldier, based on the text you have read.
- D. Read *Who Was Frederick Douglass?* by April Jones Prince. Then, have students pick one of the historical figures highlighted within the book to research. Have them practice writing a persuasion essay, by making the claim “_____ was the most important person in the Civil War”. Allow students to either confirm or deny this claim within their paper.
- E. Read either *Drummer Boy: Marching to the Civil War* by Ann Turner, or *Civil War Drummer Boy* by Verla Kay. In music class or band, have students practice drumming exercises (listed in the Appendices).

