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Memory Lane Heritage Village – School Group Tour Information (2024)

Pricing

Regular school tour \$7.00 per child (no charge for chaperones (2 per group), teachers and aids)
Combination tour and light lunch \$15.00
Light lunch on its own \$8

Driving Times & Scheduling

The Village is located in Lake Charlotte on the Eastern Shore and is 50 minutes from downtown Dartmouth. When booking a tour, please let us know your departure time and the time you need to be back by. This will allow us to plan your schedule and figure out how many stations you can fit in during your time with us. Our preferred number of groups is 7-8 groups of 6-7 students, rotating every 10-15 minutes, allowing for a tour time of 2 hours (10 AM to 12 Noon). This does not include arrival / recess or lunch.

Typical Schedule

10:00 AM Arrival – Break into assigned groups, recess / washroom break in Cookhouse
10:30 AM Station 1
10:45 AM Station 2
11:00 AM Station 3
11:15 AM Station 4
11:30 AM Station 5
11:45 AM Station 6
12:00 AM Station 7
12:15 PM Lunch in Cookhouse
12:30 PM Games on the lawn / visit to store / debrief
1:00 PM Departure

**Depending on the size of the visiting group, your departure and arrival times, etc. this schedule can be modified.*

Tour Details

Wherever possible we will try to tailor your visit to suit curriculum and age level and needs. Depending on the availability of volunteers, the number of students (we prefer a maximum of 7 students per group) and the students / chaperone ratio, we can offer the following stations:

Fisherman's Storehouse

At the fish store you will learn about the tools used to fish in the 1940s. Students are introduced to lobster traps, eel traps, buoys and killicks, and how these items were made. Depending on age and

focus, students can try to make several knitted stitches in a lobster heading or learn to tie a knot. Please note that there is open water adjacent to the fish store.

Gold Mine Complex

Students will learn how prospectors carried out their business of looking for gold. They will be given a demonstration on how a ball mill was used, and the properties of gold. Student will be given time to look through a rock pile that contains many Nova Scotia minerals and they will be allowed to take a sample home with them.

Wash Station

At the wash station student will learn the steps of washing before electricity. They will gather water from the hand pump, and take turns to wash laundry on the washboard; then turn the handle of a wringer washer and see how the water is extracted from the clothing. Students will learn how few clothes children had in the 1940s and will learn the meaning of “Sunday Best”.

The Webber House

“Mrs. Webber” will introduce students to the Webber family home. They will hear a 1940s radio broadcast in the parlour, learn how a crank telephone works, and see a wood stove in action. Upstairs bedrooms and the pantry will also be discussed, as well as why there is no bathroom. Students will also receive a ginger cookie at this station.

Family Barn & Ice House

If the tour date is after June 10th, students may have an opportunity to meet the chickens, kittens and lambs. Student will learn how ice is stored in the ice house in layers of sawdust. They will have an opportunity to lift a block of ice up with tongs and grind some grain.

Schoolhouse

Students are called to the schoolhouse with a traditional bell. They are asked to take their seats and learn about how teachers taught multiple grades in one room. They learn about pencil cases, water coolers, how the schoolhouse was heated and where the washrooms are. Students will have an opportunity to write on the blackboards and to participate in a lesson (time permitting).

Hosking General Store

Students will be greeted by the store keeper, who will discuss how stores carried everything from a needle to an anchor. They will get to use a “grabber” to pick up merchandise high on the shelves, and take turns weighing out dry goods. Students will see the post office and have an opportunity to guess the names of a number of artifacts and how they were used.

Norm Hutt Boat Shop

At the boat shop students will learn how a wooden boat was built and importance of boatbuilding on the Eastern Shore. Student will find out where the bow and stern are, and how to remember which is port and which is starboard. Depending on the volunteer in the boat shop, students may have the opportunity to see how a steam box is used to bend planks for a boat and how a grind wheel is used to sharpen tools. They will have an opportunity to sound the fog horn, and to drill with an auger and brace and bit.

Coastal Garden

Depending on the time of the year, students may have the opportunity to plant potatoes in the garden. Each student will get to plant his or her own seed potato, while they learn what was grown in a garden and why it was so important to the 1940s family. They will get a chance to identify rhubarb and possibly taste it.

Carriage Pull / Lawn Mowers / Stilts

Students will learn the meaning of “shanks mare” to walk on your own two feet and how rare it was to have a car in the 1940s. Students may get a chance to play “horse” and take others for a ride in a four wheeled carriage. Students will also get a chance to mow the lawn with a traditional mower.

Cookhouse Recess / Lunch Details

The Cookhouse seats 85 people and is located inside the Village. Students will assemble in the Cookhouse or Clam Factory when they arrive. They will be allowed to leave their bags in the Cookhouse or Clam Factory while they tour the Village. If a recess break is required, they can have recess in the Cookhouse and then pack their things up ready for the tour. There are washrooms in the Cookhouse and in the Hosking Store.

Please Read Carefully: Zero Waste Policy

Memory Lane is a 1940s living history museum. In keeping with our environmental policy, and the 1940s wartime values of reducing the waste of valuable resources, we will no longer provide garbage and recycling for visiting group’s eating lunch on our premises. This means we ask you to “pack in and pack out” any refuse that is not compostable. In the 1940s students packed an almost entirely waste free lunch. They used repurposed shortening pails to carry their lunches, and they wrapped their food in paper that could be put in the fire, or taken home. There were rarely leftovers.

Memory Lane asks students, teachers and chaperones to respect our zero waste policy by:

- Leaving no trace behind that a chicken can’t eat
- Pack all recyclable and disposable items back into their lunch boxes to take home
- Pick up wrappings and garbage that may have fallen on the floor
- Put only food waste suitable for our chickens in the composting pail provided

Alternatively a light lunch in the Cookhouse is available to students and chaperones for \$8 per person. It consists of:

- **Brown Bread** (traditional bread made from molasses, rolled oats, brown sugar, water, yeast, salt and flour). Typically we butter the bread with 20/80 margarine.
- **Chicken Noodle Soup** (a simple soup prepared from scratch with no additives or commercial stock). We keep the “bits” to a minimum, so that it appeals to a wide range of kids.
- **Veggie & Fruit Platter** (slices of cucumber, carrot and apple)
- **Gingerbread** (flour, eggs, margarine, molasses, brown sugar, water, baking soda)
- **Water** upon request (we do not offer other drinks, students may bring a juice box)

Please note we do have tea and coffee available by donation.

Vegetarian & vegan options, dairy & gluten free can be accommodated with advance notice.

A larger cookhouse “chow” is available – this is our regular lunch meal includes larger portions, a sandwich and baked beans. \$18 tickets can be purchased in the store if chaperones desire a larger meal.

Potato Sack Races / Three-legged Race / Egg & Spoon

After lunch, if time permits, students can participate in 1940s Sunday School Picnic games. Students remain in their groups and participate as a team in potato sack, three-legged, and egg & spoon relay.

Shopping at the Hosking Store

The store stocks a variety of gifts and a lot of vintage candy. Please let us know in advance if you wish students to have an opportunity to shop in the store. This can take some time and is a good lesson in money handling, but requires additional planning in the schedule.

Risks

The 1940s was a time when children had great freedom to roam, and great responsibilities in the home. They handled axes, saws, hammers, woodstove, hot pans, and even machinery. While safety of our visitors is paramount, we have not altered this environment to protect the modern-day child. No child should be left alone unsupervised. We want visitors to ask questions and to touch objects in a careful and curious manner. Please inform chaperones to encourage students to ask if they wish to touch things that interest them, as we want visitors to feel the 1940s with all their senses. However, the following risks should be brought to the attention of students, chaperones and staff:

- fall hazards (church balcony, ramps, steps, ladders)
- open water (Dufferin Pond by the Clam Factory / Fisherman’s Store)
- sharps blades (on many types of equipment, including in the barn, boat shop, fisherman’s store, mine camp and workshop)
- heavy machinery (potential to pinch, crush)
- burns (woodstoves will be on the Webber Home and Boat Shop, and if cold, in the Cookhouse)
- animals & feces (chickens, sheep, kittens and their droppings are present)

All visitors should wear proper footwear and be prepared for sun, insects, inclement weather, and cold buildings.

Additional Programming Available

With advance notice and additional charges, we can provide focused workshops on Simple Machines (Grade 5); Rocks & Minerals (Grade 4); WWII (All grades, we can add modules for this); Tourism (Grade 12) and art based tours for smaller class sizes. (max. 25 kids).