

# Mountain Gateway Museum Fieldtrip Guide Kindergarten - 5th Grade



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# Site Information

The Mountain Gateway Museum began as a community center for the town of Old Fort in the 1930s. Since then, it has been a hotel and a town-focused museum before becoming part of the North Carolina's Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' history museums division in the 1980s. Today, we focus on the history and culture of those who have called Western North Carolina home from pre-European contact to the early 21st century home.



This guidebook provides information on our field trip offerings, focused on Kindergarten—5th grade.

We can accommodate class sizes up to 70 students. We ask for a minimum three-week notice before each field trip.

The second level of the Museum can only be accessed via stairs but, we do have guidebooks to the second floor or, we can adjust the trip to include all museum activities on the first floor.

We ask that you dress for the weather, as much of the trip will be outside and in uninsulated cabins.

You are welcome to use our amphitheater for snack time or lunch.

*If you have any other questions or comments, or wish to schedule a trip, contact Brittany Joachim at 828-668-9259 or email her at [brittany.bennett@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:brittany.bennett@dncr.nc.gov) Monday- Friday.*

# Free Offerings

School groups are guaranteed a tour of the museum and special presentations in our 19th-century cabins. Some adjustments are made based on grade level or teacher's request.

## MUSEUM TOUR

All students get to tour the museum. Our upstairs covers rural Appalachian life of the mid to late 1800s, with a focus on flora, fauna, and farming. Students in grades K-2 will receive a guided tour of this part. Downstairs contains our rotating exhibits. Students in K-5 will receive a scavenger hunt to complete on this part. The scavenger hunt will include the upstairs for students in grade 3rd - 5th.

## CABIN PROGRAMS

You can choose two from the following:

**Field to Fiber:** Learn how our clothing is grown.

**Wagon Road:** Using math and reason, decide what you and your family will bring to Old Fort as you travel down the Great Wagon Road.

**Food Preservation:** Before mass refrigeration, learn how people preserved their food for the winter months ahead.

**Currency of the Realm:** The currency we use has changed a lot over time. Explore these changes from the colonial era of the United States.

**Mining in Western N.C:** Explore our mining box and learn about the tools used and what they dug up.

**Toys:** Play with some of our historical toys and make a set of clay marbles. \$2 per child.

**Lighting:** Learn about lighting homes before electricity and make your own candle. \$1 per child.

**Cordage:** Create cordage, a common way Native communities made rope. \$1 per child.

# Specialty Packages

We offer special group packages at a particular time or event in our area. Each one also includes a hands-on activity with each price per child listed. All of these include a museum tour but the activities listed take the place of the cabin activities previously listed.

## SYMBOLS OF N.C.

Students will learn more about the official state symbols of North Carolina. They will participate in a special scavenger hunt for these symbols (taking place on the grounds and in the cabins). Then, we will meet in the amphitheater as the “legislative body” to debate what the official state soda should be as students sample our state berries and beverage (milk). \$1 per child. *Recommended for 4th graders*

## OLDE MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS

Come learn how people of the 1880s celebrate Christmas and other winter traditions. Students will receive a special presentation about other winter celebrations from different cultures and will get to make a Christmas card or ornament (the teacher chooses). \*This program is only offered between Veterans Day and December 20. \$1 per child.

## SPRING FLING

With spring in the air, let’s explore what that means for the plants and animals of Western N.C. Students will learn about the habits of baby animals native to us. Then, they get to plant their marigold seeds (which they get to take home) and learn about the life cycle of a plant. \$2 per child. \*This program is only offered mid-March through mid-April.