

School Programs 2023–2024

History—Mansion Tour #1: Meet the Mansion 60 minutes All Grade levels

A Rock Ford guide will lead students throughout the house and share the stories of the Hand family and the objects they used. This tour includes basic information about Rock Ford’s African American connections. Students will learn about General Hand’s service during and after the Revolutionary War. In every room, guides will engage the students in discussion to help them understand how life today compares to life during the time the Hands lived in the mansion. An architectural focus can also be included.

OR

History—Mansion Tour #2: The Hidden History 60 minutes Grades 6-12

This tour goes beyond “Welcome to the Mansion,” to include more depth and detail of Rock Ford’s African American connections. Students will learn about slavery, servitude and the relationship of 18th century objects in the house to the African American Slave Trade. Following the tour, guides will invite students to discuss what they have learned.

OR

History—A Spy or the Wrong Guy? 180 minutes Grades 6-12

In 1781, General Edward Hand played an important role in the sentencing of British officer, Major John André. Students will begin by reading primary documents from the Proceedings of the Board of General Officers, search those texts for facts relevant to determining whether André was a spy, and finally, dramatize the proceedings—as only they could imagine them to be. After the dramatization, students will discuss whether justice was done. We recommend scheduling Major John André program for the morning. A full-day program could include a scavenger hunt in the afternoon. *Depending upon the students’ reading levels and their desire to dramatize, this program may be enhanced by having the students read the primary documents before their visit.*

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS (\$1.00 per child for each additional program)

S.T.E.A.M.—Gallery and Gears 30-60 minutes Grades 3-6

“Gallery and Gears” is presented inside the Snyder Gallery of Early Lancaster County Decorative Arts at Historic Rock Ford. Based on a significant gift to Snyder Gallery, an eleven-foot-tall hand-crafted pendulum “Donor Clock,” we were inspired to create a program about how pendulum clocks work. “Gallery and Gears” focuses on how a system of gears, weights, escapement and pendulum regulate the accuracy of pendulum clocks in our collection. Students participate in a series of explorations, discussions and hands-on experiences with gear boards that demonstrate how systems and parts within are synchronized.

S.T.E.A.M.—Architecture: A Gorgeous Georgian 30-60 minutes Grades 3-6

Inspired by the architecture of Rock Ford, these activities are based upon the unique architectural features of the 1792 mansion and 1780 bank barn. After learning architectural terms and identifying elements of symmetry, texture and rhythm, students will create 2 and 3-dimensional products to show what they have learned.

S.T.E.M—Is It Trash? Or Is It Treasure? 30-45 minutes Grades 3-6

Archaeology is the study of ancient or recent past by looking at human material remains and objects. Most of what archaeologists find during an excavation, are what the average person would consider to be trash. However, students will learn that each artifact is a clue that can help solve the mystery of who used it, owned it or left it behind. Students will “excavate” some 18th century trash, and through identification and a little sleuthing, they will come to appreciate how their trash can become treasure. (**Continue to next page.**)

School Programs 2023–2024

Discover History - Hands On

30 minutes

Grades 3-5

In these self-guided activities students will be able to play 18th century games, write with quill pens and dress in (period) clothing just as children did 200 years ago. They demonstrate symmetry and patterns with wooden architecture blocks, and together they interpret the famous Leutze painting, George Washington Crossing the Delaware. Students also are challenged to read aloud Edward Hand's letter to his wife, Kitty, that he wrote to her from Trenton, NJ, just before he crossed the Delaware River on that cold blustery Christmas night during the Revolutionary War.

S.T.E.M - Measuring with Gunter's Chains

60 minutes

Grades 5 - 8

This activity provides students with an opportunity to use a replica of the same equipment and follow the same practices that surveyors such as Benjamin Banneker and George Washington would have used 150-200 years ago. It requires students to think about problems surveyors would have encountered as they located boundaries of properties. It incorporates fundamental concepts from science, mathematics (decimals) and engineering such as data collection, measurement, accuracy, process and technology. After a close examination of the Gunter's Chains (2-3 students per chain) and a demonstration of how to use it, students are off on their own. They measure pre-set distances in chains and links and must coordinate, communicate and work methodically. They report their measurements to learn how accurate they were. This activity has great potential for increasing intellectual demand, as it can incorporate geometric concepts such as perimeter, area, and hypotenuse, for example. Unusual and intriguing, the Gunter's Chain functioned as a system of early measurement that set a standard for width of roads in several countries around the world and is the standard length of a cricket pitch in India and the UK. They are still being used in India.