

Secrets of the Pioneer Forest

A Guide for Teachers



Westfield Heritage Village

This guide provides an overview of the “Secret of the Pioneer Forest” program as well as information that you will need to make the most of your visit to Westfield.

Program Overview

We are delighted that you and your class will be joining us for our Secrets of the Pioneer Forest program. Westfield is a special place where students and adults have the opportunity to learn about the past in an immersive, multisensory environment that makes history come alive. We strive to provide enjoyable, and informative educational opportunities that allow students to learn about our past through active, hands-on experiences. Westfield's educational programs are developed in accordance with the learning objectives outlined in the Ontario Curriculum, with the goal of being a valuable complement to the work that you do in the classroom. We are committed to offering a unique learning environment where students can explore, imagine and discover.

Program Objectives

The primary objectives of this program are to:

- Describe the interrelationships within the natural and built environments and human communities
- Help students understand and empathize with the experiences of individuals and families in Upper Canada by describing the ways the First Peoples shared their knowledge with early settlers and how this knowledge helped new Canadians adapt to their new country
- Demonstrate how pioneers were able to improve upon early farming practices and industries using advances in technology and how these improvements impacted natural and built environments
- To help students understand the connections between human activities and the natural and built environments in different time periods



Making the Most of Your Visit

Confirmation Form

Please check your confirmation form carefully and notify us as soon as possible if the information is incorrect, or if you need to make any changes. Westfield has a three week cancellation policy.

Payment

We will send an invoice following your visit. If you prefer to pay on the day of your visit, please make cheque payable to “**Hamilton Conservation Authority.**”

Arrival Time

Program times are 10:00 - 11:30 and 12:30 – 2:00. Please plan to arrive by 9:45 a.m. for a morning or all day program and by 12:15 pm. for an afternoon program. This will ensure your program will begin on time. When your group arrives you will be greeted by a costumed interpreter and given further directions.

Late Arrivals

Any groups arriving after the program start time of 10:00 am or 12:30 pm will result in parts of the program being shortened or omitted. We will not be able to extend program times.

Lunches

Program participants are encouraged to bring nut free, litter-less lunches and refillable drink bottles. Please note that Westfield cannot guarantee that our facilities are nut-free.

Please refer to our **Pack like a Pioneer** brochure, included in your information package, for details on how your group can pack healthy, environmentally friendly lunches.

Lunch Space - The Ironwood Hall

The Ironwood Hall is available as a lunchroom and is reserved for groups booking full day programs. The room is available for groups here for a half day at a cost of \$37.29, but needs to be booked in advance. Lunches will be stored here but please note that there is no refrigeration or microwaves available for school use. This area is not locked, so please do not leave valuable items. Washrooms are located in this building as well as a water cooler. Please encourage students to bring a refillable water bottle.

Outside Picnic Area

Groups are welcome to use our picnic area free of charge and the space does not need to be booked in advance. The picnic area is uncovered. You will have access to the washrooms as well as the water cooler for participants to refill their own water bottles.

Storing Belongings

In cases where groups have not booked the Ironwood Hall but wish to have lunch in the picnic area, you will be asked to leave your lunches outside of the Hall while in program. Please note that there is some shade in this area however no refrigeration. Please encourage program participants to pack an icepack and/or use thermo lunch bags.

Dressing for the Weather

Students should dress appropriately for cool, hot or rainy weather. They will be spending the majority of the time outdoors and on gravel roads and in buildings that are heated by methods used during the 19th century. During cold weather boots, mitts, hats and heavy coats are strongly encouraged. In warmer weather sun hats, sunscreen, bug spray are all recommended.

Extreme Weather

All programs continue rain, snow, or shine. During weather extremes however a greater portion of our programs may be conducted indoors or adapted for the safety of participants and staff.

Movement between Stations

To make the most of your program, please encourage your group to move as efficiently as possible from station to station. Your interpreters will direct you to each of your stations.

Supervision

You know your group best, so we will leave it to you to determine how many additional supervisors will be necessary. Please note, however, that due to the small sizes of many of our historic buildings, we recommend you not exceed a ratio of 1:5. You are responsible for supervising your group(s) at all times while on site.

Special Needs

Westfield is working to make the village fully accessible for all visitors, however all areas are not fully accessible at this time. Please let us know if anyone in your group requires special assistance or accommodation and we will do our best to provide the best experience possible.

Costumes

Students and teachers wishing to get into the spirit of the day are welcome to visit in historical costumes. Boys can wear dark dress pants, a white or plaid shirt, suspenders and vest. Girls can wear a dark dress or long dark skirt with cotton blouse and bib-style apron. All can wear straw hats, long black socks and dark leather shoes or boots. No jewelry or makeup should be worn.

Gift Shop

The Gift Shop is not normally open during school programming days however if requested in advance arrangements may be made.

Program Structure

Secret of the Pioneer Forest 1 - morning session - 10:00– 11:30 am

Secret of the Pioneer Forest 2– afternoon session - 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Upon arrival, you will be welcomed by a costumed interpreter, who will help organize the students into groups. Following a brief welcome and introduction, each group will be taken to the first of four stations by the interpreter. You will then be directed to each of the following stations.

Secret of the Pioneer Forest 1

Impacts of Trade and Settlement

Location: The Trading Post

Students will learn:

- Differences in perspectives between First Peoples and Early Settlers on the use of natural resources
- About the fur trade, including early economic methods (barter system, trade goods, credit)
- Impacts of increased hunting on the environment

The Activity

Students will have an opportunity to handle materials and tools used during the fur trade.

Natural Health and Healing

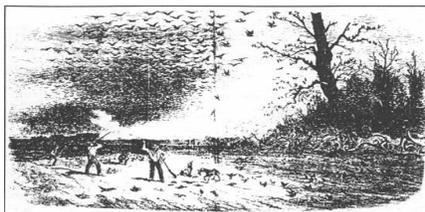
Location: Outside by the Hill House Garden

Students will learn:

- About the First Peoples approach to healing and how their natural surroundings were closely connected to health
- What lessons the First Peoples taught Settlers about the use of plants for maintaining health
- Natural remedies Settlers used

Activity

Students will explore the Hill Home garden to view the natural ingredients used by the Settlers in herbal remedies.



Management of Natural Resources

Location: The path from the Early Settlement Area to the Village Green

Students will learn:

- How the First Peoples used the forest differently than Settlers
- The impacts of clearing land and overhunting on the natural environment
- Which plants and animal species were once plentiful in this area but no longer are, due to human activities and behaviours

Activity

Students will play the Fox, Rabbit, Leaf game which actively demonstrates the concept of balances in nature i.e. how small changes in an ecosystem have many far reaching impacts.

Agriculture and Technology

Location: Outside of the Bamberger House

Students will learn:

- About the farming techniques taught to the early Settlers by the First Peoples
- How the early Settlers struggles to clear the land and how they adopted farming techniques to meet their changing needs
- How more intensive agriculture use impacted the environment (water, soil, animals)
- The impacts of the introduction of non-native plants, insects and animals

Activity

The students will have a chance to grind corn and winnow using reproduction equipment used in the 1800s.

Secret of the Pioneer Forest 2

Shift from Home Production to Trade

Location: Spinners and Weavers Shop

Students will learn:

- The factors that led to urbanization, industrialization and technological changes in the mid 1800's
- The ways the economy grew in this area of Canada West and shifted industry away from home based production
- How improvements made to early farming practices (ie grazing, crop rotation) lead to the reduction of natural habitats

Activity

The students will have a hands-on opportunity to handle raw wool and use wool carders. They will also see a demonstration on the use of a drop spindle.

Natural Remedies

Location: Drug Store

Students will learn:

- How Victorian medicines were based in the ancient use of plants
- About herbal or natural remedies used in Victorian times
- Examples of natural remedies used today

Activity

Students will view examples of Victorian advertisements for natural remedies and have an opportunity to use some the tools and ingredients found in an apothecary shop.

Management of Natural Resources

Location: Saw Mill

Students will learn:

- About Ontario's Carolinian Forest
- Improvements made to early lumbering techniques
- The impacts of the growth of lumber mills and associate industries on the local environment
- Lessons learned about these impacts on the environment

Activity

View the inside of a saw mill, examine several types of lumber in their natural and processed states, discuss the various trees found in the area, and try sawing a log.

Increased Technology

Location: Agricultural Barn

Students will learn:

- How established farmers continued to improve upon the agriculture tools of the early settlers
- How increased mechanization impacted the natural and built environments
- The importance of bee keeping and the environmental benefits and concerns related to bees

Activity

The students will have the opportunity to explore the farm machinery and tools located in the barn.

