

Down on the Farm

A Guide for Teachers



Westfield Heritage Village

This guide provides an overview of the “Down on the Farm” 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 Down on the Farm program. Westfield is a special place where students have the opportunity to learn about the past in an immersive, multi-sensory 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 program 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 committing to offering a unique learning environment where students can explore, imagine and discover.

Program Objectives

This program focuses on helping participants gain an understanding of what life may have been like for a family living on a farm in Southern Ontario at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Utilizing our beautiful rural location, rare collection of period buildings and rich artifact collection, our knowledgeable and welcoming costumed interpreters will guide your students through four stations. These stations all have a hands-on component that will allow them to experience a taste of farm life during the earliest days of settlement.

The primary objectives of this program are to...

- illustrate aspects of the daily life of a family living in Upper Canada at the beginning of the nineteenth century
- encourage students to consider how co-operative work benefits a community
- help students understand the connections between human activity and natural environments
- develop an understanding of the social, cultural and technological circumstances that impacted individuals and families in Upper Canada in the early 19th century
- describe the ways in which early settlers learned from First Nations peoples, and how this knowledge helped them adapt to the climate, resources and circumstances of their new country
- clarify the various roles of women, men and children in establishing and maintaining a rural home and farm in the time of early settlement
- discuss early immigration to Upper Canada, and the many reasons families settled in Southern Ontario

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.

Lunch Space - The Ironwood Hall

The Ironwood Hall is available as a lunch room 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 and you will also find a pay telephone and water fountain at the side entrance.

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 washrooms, a pay telephone and water fountain.

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

School Days

Location: Cathcart School

Some rural Upper Canadian children were lucky enough to live within walking distance of a school, and if young enough, could be spared from farm work for a few hours each day. Students will enjoy learning about the environment of early schools by taking a seat in a one room log schoolhouse. The school teacher will guide students through a hands-on activity that will allow students to learn a few lessons about the routines, environment and expectations in early classrooms.

Meeting at a Crossroads

Location: The D'Aubigny Inn

Early inns served many functions in rural communities. These establishments were a welcome and necessary place of rest and nourishment during a long journey, a meeting place for community discussions and a centre for local news. At the D'Aubigny Inn, a c. 1818, two storey log building from Brant County, your children will learn about the conditions of early travel, food and accommodation. Students will enjoy a lively team activity where they will prepare for a journey to a new farm.

Keeping Clean

Location: Lockhart Log Home

How did the early settlers keep clean? It's laundry day, and students will have a chance to roll up their sleeves and scrub some pioneer clothes! Inside the home, they will learn about the challenges and routines of living in a one room cabin. Where did everyone sleep? How could you brush your teeth? Have a bath? And most important – where is the bathroom?

Raising a Roof, Building a Community

Location: The Lockhart Barn

Co-operation, hard work and a festive atmosphere surrounded many community work bees in Canada's early days. Through the use of a scale model, students will be guided through a barn raising bee and prepare for a community celebration upon its completion.

