Fort Necessity

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Necessity
National Battlefield

Education Program for 3rd Grade Classes

Learning Lab Workshop

Travelers and Workers Along the National Road

Traveling and working in the 1840's was much different than today. This half-day program helps students learn about travel and travel accommodations on the National Road. The program includes a tour of the historic Mount Washington Tavern, a workshop in the Learning Lab, a tour of the exhibits, viewing the 20-minute film, visiting the bookstore and access to picnic tables for lunch.

Tour the Historic Mount Washington Tavern

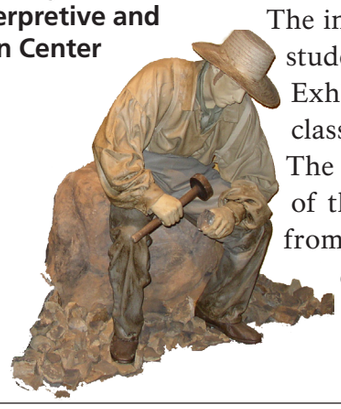
Students participate in a guided tour of the historic National Road era stagecoach stop, the Mount Washington Tavern, to see where the travelers in the 1800's ate, socialized and slept. The tour begins with students learning about stagecoach travel by participating in a pretend stagecoach ride. Then the students have the opportunity to become the old-time travelers as they try on historic style clothes. The try on dresses and vests go right over the children's clothing. Dressed as travelers the students listen to the voices of characters from the past as they view and learn about the bar, parlor, dining room, kitchen and bedrooms. This tour lasts one hour.

Tour of Mount Washington Tavern

Learning Lab Workshop with hands on involvement

In the Learning Lab, students become the workers at a National Road tavern. The class rotates through four stations, where each station has instructions on old-fashioned chores the group must complete. At the kitchen station the children simulate making biscuits, carrying in firewood and bringing water. At the bedroom cleaning station the students pretend to empty the chamber pots and wash the laundry. The group needs to clean the stalls and feed the horses at the stable station. Finally the children count the tavern's money and sort the mail for the tavern keeper. This activity lasts one hour.

Fort Necessity/National Road Interpretive and Education Center

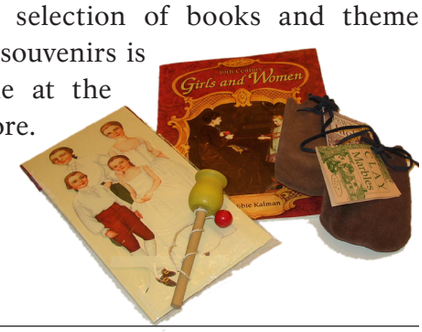


Exhibits

The interactive exhibits will engage the students in the history of the area. Exhibit guides will help you and your class get the most out of the exhibits. The exhibits feature a panoramic film of the busy National Road, artifacts from the road, and highlight the decline and rebirth of the road after its heyday.

Bookstore

To help students remember and expand on what they learned during their visit, a large selection of books and theme related souvenirs is available at the bookstore.



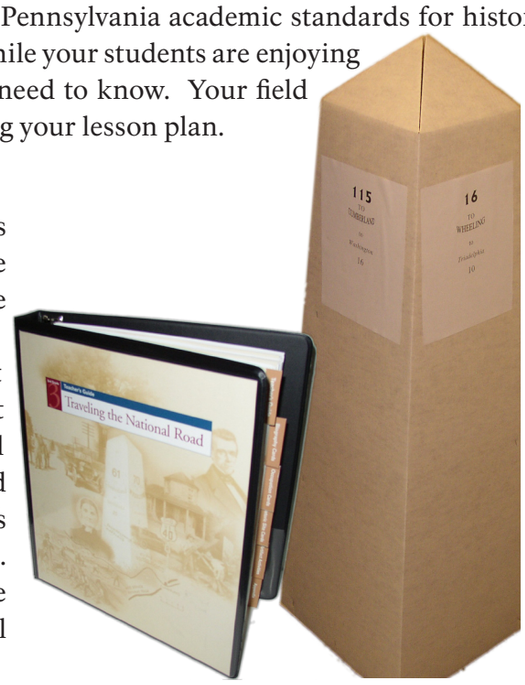
Historic figures welcome visitors to the Fort Necessity/National Road Interpretation and Education Center.

Curriculum Based Program

This program was developed to meet the Pennsylvania academic standards for history and economics at the third grade level. While your students are enjoying themselves they are learning things they need to know. Your field trip won't be a day lost from accomplishing your lesson plan.

Classroom Materials

Curriculum based classroom materials are now available for the 3rd grade. The 190 page teacher's guide "Traveling the National Road" includes background information for the teachers, student readings, and numerous activities. It also includes 14 biography cards on local people associated with the National Road and 14 corresponding occupation cards highlighting jobs along the National Road. The seven historic site cards provide information on features of the National Road you can still see and visit today.



Comments from 3rd grade Teachers

"I was hesitant to come. Too many of these history places talk over the kids' heads and they don't get it. But, this was beautiful. It was interactive and wonderful."

"The whole program was strong. The students had a great time and … were really learning."

"This is great and is perfect for the 3rd grade curriculum."

Make your reservations now

"Travelers and Workers Along the National Road" is offered on Mondays and Tuesdays in spring. Arrangements may also be made throughout the year. The cost is $5 per student. Scholarships may be available. Call 724-329-8124 for information and reservations. Let your students immerse themselves in history.

Mount Washington Tavern

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