

# Plan a Sandburg Home Group Visit

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site



- Group reservations are recommended for groups with a minimum of 10 persons and a maximum of 60 persons per visit. Groups will be split into smaller groups of 12 persons each, if including a house tour in your visit.
- Reservations for a group visit are only available Monday – Friday. Due to heavy regular visitation, advance reservations for groups are not available on Saturday and Sunday. If you are planning to come on a weekend, please know that you may not be able to tour the home. All other activities are free and open to the public on the weekend.
- Please submit the request form at least three weeks before your visit. Spring and Fall season reservations can fill 6-8 weeks in advance, so plan early.
- There is a \$8.00 charge for house tours for adults. \$5.00 for adults over age 62 and free for youth 15 and younger. Fee waivers are only granted to education organizations and therapeutic groups.



## Things to do at Carl Sandburg Home NHS

### House Tour

Experience how the Sandburg family lived as a National Park Service Ranger or park volunteer guides you through the house. **Please remember tours are limited to 12 persons (no exceptions).**

### Visiting the Barn

Park volunteers at the barn are happy to answer any questions your group may have about Mrs. Sandburg's Chikaming goat herd.

### Audio-Visual Room

Your trip to Connemara would not be complete without seeing our video of an interview between Mr. Sandburg and Edward R. Murrow. 12 min.

### Hiking

There are numerous trails at Connemara, which vary in length and difficulty. Please allow time for your group to explore this beautiful setting. Maps are available online and in the bookstore.

### Park Store

America's National Parks operates a park store with a great variety of items related to the literary career of Carl Sandburg, his family and Mrs. Sandburg's dairy goats.

### Step-on Ranger Talk

Invite a ranger to step on the bus when you stop by the visitor parking lot. This talk allows your group to stay in their seats while still learning about Carl Sandburg and the park. Talks can be pre-arranged for a variety of topics from 15-30 minutes.

### Ranger Talk at Visitor Entrance

Meet a ranger by the front lake with a beautiful view of the Sandburg Home. 15 seats and a restroom are available. 30 minutes.

## Accessibility

Please assess your group's ability to experience the site. Accommodations have been made when possible and include:

- A 20-passenger shuttle helps visitors with the .3 mile walk over 100' elevation change from the restroom near the parking lot. To get to the shuttle visitors must be able to walk or travel with a mobility device from the parking lot down a short trail to the shuttle stop.
- A lift at the Sandburg Home assists visitors who are unable to walk up the front stairs to access the second level.
- Groups should anticipate up to ¼ mile of walking or travel with a mobility device even with these accessibility accommodations.
- More accessibility information can be found on our [website](#).

## Visiting Without a Group Reservation

When no reservations are possible, the availability of tours for your group will be based on the number of public tour tickets available for purchase at the time of your arrival to the park. With this in mind, please be sure to see the ranger in the park bookstore as soon as you arrive to acquire your tickets for the next available tour. There is no guarantee, without formal reservations, that your group will be able to tour the house together or in the time you have allotted for your visit.

If you are not planning to tour the Sandburg Home during your group visit, please still contact the park about any accessibility needs your group might have or how to best schedule your visit for a great experience!

# GROUP REQUEST FORM

Requestors Name:	Todays Date:
Group Name:	Age Range:
Address:	
Phone:	Secondary Phone:
E-mail:	

**Requested date to visit:** \_\_\_\_\_ **2<sup>nd</sup> Choice:** \_\_\_\_\_

# of Adults (age 16-61): \_\_\_\_\_ # of Adults (age 62 and older) \_\_\_\_\_ # of youth (15 and under) \_\_\_\_\_

Planned Time of Arrival in parking lot: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your group have any special needs (needs the shuttle from parking lot, would like to eat lunch on site, etc...)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Select your requested activities below:**

Select at least as many activities as you have groups. Example: 45 visitors will need at least 3 activities scheduled; they will be divided into 3 groups of 15 each.

**Activities**

- House Tour (30 minutes)
- Barn visit (30 minutes)
- Hike (30 minutes)
- Video and Bookstore (30 minutes)
- Summer theater performance (30 minutes)  
*Mid-June to mid-August, Wed and Fri at 10:15am*

**Tour Bus Group Activities**

- Step-on Ranger talk (15-30 minutes)
- Ranger Talk at park entrance (30 minutes)

**Notes:**

- Reserved tours are scheduled every 30 minutes on the quarter hour.
- To calculate how much time to plan for, add up selected activities and an additional 30 minutes for your itinerary.
- If you only have a short time or limited mobility you may select a tour bus group activity.

Sample Schedule with 3 groups:

Group	10:00	10:15	10:45	11:15	11:45	Guide
<b>A</b>	Arrive in parking lot	House Tour	Barn Tour	Video/Bookstore	End of rotations	Ranger
<b>B</b>	Arrive in parking lot	Video/Bookstore	House Tour	Barn Tour	End of rotations	Ranger
<b>C</b>	Arrive in parking lot	Barn Tour	Video/Bookstore	House Tour	End of rotations	Ranger

Fax completed forms to: Education Coordinator at (828)-693-4179

## Sample Visit Itinerary

based on sample rotation schedule above:

- I. **Arrival**
  - A. 10:00 am in main parking lot
  - B. Assign each person to a rotation (providing the itinerary to at least one person in each rotation is a good idea)
  - C. bathroom stop
  - D. walk up hill or ride 12-passenger shuttle
- II. **Rotations begin**
  - A. 1<sup>st</sup> rotation starts 10:15 am
- III. **Conclusion**
  - A. Last Rotation ends 11:45 pm
  - B. Return to busses/transportation by 12:00 pm
- IV. **Lunch (optional)**
  - A. carry in, carry out encouraged; limited trash services
  - B. no concessions at park
  - C. no place to store food; busses and coolers suggested
  - D. Picnic area, amphitheater or house garage only, please be careful of litter

## How to Apply for a Fee Waiver

To apply for a fee waiver you must be a qualified education or therapeutic organization. You may write a letter on your organization's letterhead. Please state the learning or therapeutic objectives of your visit. For example, "*Students will be able to name two issues which permeated Sandburg's poetry after touring the home of Carl Sandburg.*" Your letter must be received and approved **before** visiting the park.

If approved, the house tour fee will be waived for any adult and youth who visit with your group. You will be notified by e-mail, mail or phone as to the approval or denial of the fee waiver and in some cases the need for more specific objectives before the fee waiver can be approved.

You may fax your fee waiver request to: (828) 693-4179

or mail it to:

Carl Sandburg Home NHS  
Attn: Fee Waiver Request  
81 Carl Sandburg Lane  
Flat Rock, NC 28731