“Why They Came” Chaperone orientation

During visit resources

Note: These tours are meant to be student-driven. We discourage teachers/chaperones from becoming tour guides. Rather, we want students to explore the Fordyce Bathhouse through the eyes of those who worked and visited here.

Recommended tour path: Begin on the third floor and slowly move down to the basement before returning to the first floor, near the elevator, to meet the Park Ranger.

Rooms and resources

Several rooms are specifically mentioned on your students’ character cards. Encourage students to use the quotes and references below to find a connection as they visit certain rooms.

Third Floor:

*Gymnasium*

Johnny Kilbane

“**With the baths and this gymnasium, and I will whip the German Army.”**

“Every piece of equipment he needed was in the Fordyce Gym.”

Elbert Payton

“**I used to go up [to the gym] and catch with a player for the Cleveland Indians.”**

*Massage Therapy Room*

Vega Carlson

“Vega Carlson became the masseuse at the Fordyce in the 1920s. She would have needed formal training in Swedish massage.”

Second floor

*Chiropody room*

Timothy Bottoms

“By 1957, Dr. Bottoms ran his doctor’s office at the Fordyce Bathhouse.”

First Floor:

*Hydrotherapy Room*

Myrtle Cheatham

**“We ran the [needle shower] hose ourselves. You had to have a prescription from the doctor.”**

Elbert Payton

**“I gave a mercury rub to quite a number of people here.”**

*Men’s Bath Hall*

Elbert Payton

**“Quite a few ball players would come and take baths.”**

Timothy Bottoms

**“His [a bath attendant’s] aim should be to give the bathers good service and to educate them to the need of the hot waters.”**

Johnny Kilbane

“**With the baths and this gymnasium, and I will whip the German Army.”**

*Women’s Bath Hall*

Myrtle Cheatham

**“When you moved to the bath attendant, you made 50 cents a day.”**

**“If you was a good bather [they’d] come back and ask for you. And would not take anyone else.”**

*Women’s Pack Room*

Myrtle Cheatham

**“When we put on the hot packs, we made maybe 10 or 15 cents [a day]”**

Basement

Myrtle Cheatham

**“Many days we did not get lunch. We would run down and [snack] and back up…because we bathed the world.”**

Elbert Payton

“Payton often bowled in the basement with other employees.”

# Activities while walking through museum:

These are fun options to keep student energy

\*Spyglass

Enter a room, form your hands like a spyglass, scan the room for 1 second to focus the “spyglass” on a particular part of the room.

Then scan for 3 more seconds with your “spyglass” until you focus on another part of the room.

Try to find a connection between the two objects you found with your “spyglass.”

\*Take a selfie in your favorite room or next to your favorite object

\*Pose like someone who would have been in the room

\*Pick 3

As you walk through the bathhouse, identify one object or tool that you don’t think you’d want to use and two items you’d want to try to use for health and wellness.