



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
James A. Garfield National Historic Site  
8095 Mentor Avenue  
Mentor, Ohio 44060

## **The James A. Garfield National Historic Site Education Programs 2010-2011 School Year**

*The James A. Garfield National Historic Site owned and operated by the National Park Service.*

*The education programs are inquiry-based, incorporate hands-on learning, and correlate to the Ohio Academic Content Standards in social studies, math, and language arts. All on-site programs are approximately two hours in length and include a guided tour of President Garfield's home. Most programs are available for outreach. Ask for more details when making your reservation.*

### **Past and Presidents Grades Pre-K to K**

Young historians are invited to travel back in time. Children are introduced to the Garfield family and nineteenth-century life through interactive play that engages their powers of observation and imagination.

In the house museum, children participate in a question and answer game as we examine an 1880 portrait of the president with his family. How do we know the portrait was painted a long time ago? Which person in the portrait is the president? The children are encouraged to use as many descriptive words as they can to identify the people in the painting and their surroundings. With this introduction the children can imagine Dad, Mom, Hal, Jimmy, Mollie, Irvin, Abram, and Grandma at Lawnfield (their Mentor farm) during the exciting year of the campaign.

In the Garfield house, each child is given photographs of objects so that they can play "I spy" on their tour.

### **Tell It Like It Was Grade 2**

Beginning readers play detective in this program that focuses on literacy. During the tour, children examine a mystery room in Garfield's home and a mystery object from Garfield's era. The children are encouraged to use their senses and creative abilities to describe unfamiliar things. The little sleuths play a game of deduction as the secret objects are revealed.

In the Visitor Center, children hear stories about and view photos of the five Garfield children, and then draw pictures and retell the stories of each sibling.

### **Building a Community: Mentor Village Grade 3**

Have you ever wondered how a city came to be? Using primary source documents, three dimensional objects and pictures, students recreate Mentor Village in 1890 on a large floor map. Students also discover the Garfield family's contributions to their community.

## **Front Porch Math**

### **Grades 4-5**

The history of James A. Garfield and his family are the real-world context for math applications in the Garfield home and Visitor Center. Exhibits and artifacts representing events in Garfield's life provide the basis for math problems, giving students an opportunity to apply their knowledge of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade math indicators and content standards.

## **Getting to Know Garfield Series**

### **Grades 3-4, 5-6, 7-8**

Classes get an overview of President James A. Garfield, related to specific themes appropriate to Ohio's Social Studies benchmarks and grade level indicators. In these programs, students explore the Garfield's home, grounds, and the exhibits in the Visitor Center. Please note that some parts of this program take place outside, so classes should dress appropriately.

## **Where Was Garfield?**

### **Grades 4-5**

This is an investigative program that challenges students to identify significant events and people using information found in museum exhibits. Using teamwork, students create a giant multi-tiered timeline connecting national events, Ohio history, and President Garfield's life. (The children report their findings to classmates and discuss the sequence of events and cause and effect relationships.)

## **Thinking like a Curator**

### **Grades 5-9**

This program encourages and teaches students to work and think as curators. Using historic documents, the children research an object from the Garfield family home and discover its provenance. A tour of the house reveals each object in its context leading students to a better understanding of the way spaces and artifacts tell a story.

## **We the People**

### **Grades 5-8**

In this two part program, students examine citizenship rights and responsibilities and the role of government through the life and times of President Garfield. In one part, students use a variety of primary sources to explore Bill of Rights issues of importance to Garfield and his contemporaries. While visiting the President's home, students will use the context of the rooms to discuss his different roles in government and the political activities surrounding the 1880 presidential campaign.

## **Fighting for the Union (Civil War Program)**

### **Grades 5-8**

Students become history detectives as they examine "personal" artifacts and primary source documents to reveal and present a snapshot biography of a person of relevance to the Civil War. Mystery people include James A. Garfield, Abraham Lincoln, Walt Whitman, Mathew Brady, Frederick Douglas, and Clara Barton. Using their new knowledge, students analyze the contributions these Unionists made to the war effort.

Several programs for high school students are also available both on-site and as an outreach. Please contact Mary Lintern at 440-255-8722 for details.