

Fieldtrips to Vance Birthplace

Vance Birthplace State Historic Site preserves the site of the birthplace of North Carolina's Civil War Governor. The two-story Vance home is reconstructed in the footprint of the original 1790s pioneer "mansion" and is furnished as it would have been from 1790 to 1840. The six farm outbuildings offer a glimpse into life on a early 1800s farmstead while stories and demonstrations bring this history to life.

The Visitor Center houses exhibits on the life of Gov. Zebulon Vance as well as a 15-minute film on the life of the governor. Outside, our picnic shelter offers seating for up to 50 people and others may picnic on the grass nearby.

Education Programs

The House & Grounds Tour will introduce students to life on a mountain farmstead in the early 1800s. The tour compares the life of the wealthy Vance family to average settlers of the time and to our lives today. Alternatively, the tour can focus on the life and childhood of the Civil War Governor or on slavery in Western North Carolina.

In the hands-on History Mystery program, students will use their investigative skills to examine 200 year old artifacts to discover how they were used and which modern tools are similar.



We also offer demonstrations on working and spinning wool, weaving using small and large looms, and wood working tools and techniques. You should allow 20-30 minutes for each demonstration. After lunch, your group can make beeswax candles, craft button spinner toys, or explore the site with the exhibit scavenger hunt. Fees may apply.

Due to staff limitations, we are unable to present more than two programs/demonstrations at a time.

Suggested Schedule

9:15 AM Arrive on site, bathroom break

9:30 AM History Mystery Game (Group 1), House & Buildings Tour (Group 2)

10:30 AM Group 1 and Group 2 switch activities

11:30 AM Set up for picnic lunch at our shade shelter and/or on the grass

12:15 PM Optional activities/demonstrations or teacher led activities on the grounds.

2:00 PM Load bus and return to school

Important Planning Tips

Because of the size of the Vance home and site facilities, we can only schedule two classes (about 52 students) at one time. The outdoor picnic shelter is limited to 50 people, but classes are welcome to picnic or set up coolers on the grass nearby. Please check with staff to verify that the shelter has not been rented by another group.

Please have students dress appropriately for the visit. Students will be sitting, standing, and walking and should wear comfortable clothes and shoes. We recommend multiple layers of clothes since the program will take place in the visitor center, outdoors, and in the unheated log cabin.

Group Program Request Form

School or Group: _____ Date(s): _____

Arrival Time: _____ Leave By: _____ Lunch Here? _____

Grade Level (K to Adult Ed): _____ # of Participants: _____ # of Chaperones: _____

Program(s)*:

- Life in the Early 1800s: House Tour (45-60 min)
 - Include Tour of Outbuildings (15-30 min)
- History Mystery: 1800s Tools (45-60 min)**
- Slavery in WNC: House and Grounds Tour (60 min)
- Childhood of Zeb Vance: House Tour (30-45 min)
- Film: Civil War Governor of the South (15 min)**

Contact Us:

(828) 645-6706
vance@ncdcr.gov

* Times listed are per group. Group maximum is 20 adults or 28 kids and 2 adults. Smaller groups are preferred due to the size of the house. There can be two simultaneous programs / groups.

** These programs take place in the same location and cannot be done by two groups at the same time

Activities:

- Candle-Making
\$2.25/child, 60-90 minutes
Up to 56 kids at a time
- Button Spinner Craft
\$0.75/child, 20-30 minutes, up to 28 kids
- Exhibit Scavenger Hunt
20-30 minutes, up to 28 kids

Demonstrations:

- Spinning Wheel & Wool Working
20-30 minutes, up to 18 kids
- Weaving on Large and Small Looms
20-30 minutes, up to 18 kids
- Wood Working Tools & Techniques
20-30 minutes, up to 18 kids

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____