



73½ South Professor Street
P.O. Box 455
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455
Phone: 440-774-1700
Fax: 440-774-8061
Website: www.oberlinheritage.org
E-mail: members@oberlinheritage.org

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Contact: Elizabeth Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org

Cool Summer Fun at the Oberlin Heritage Center's Little Red Schoolhouse!

School may be “out” for summer within the next few weeks in many area communities, yet Oberlin’s Little Red Schoolhouse will remain the “in” place to be this vacation season for kids and families looking for free or low-cost activities for learning and enjoying together. The Oberlin Heritage Center will host a number of events for school-aged children (and some activities particularly for preschoolers) at its one-room pioneer-era schoolhouse and grounds this summer. Learn to cook in a Dutch oven, churn creamy butter or frosty ice cream, or enjoy a mix of stories and old-fashioned games. Come with a group (such as a birthday party, family reunion, etc.) and take a step back in time to the days of chalk-slate lessons, hoop-skirted schoolmarms, and great fun with stilts and hoops in the schoolyard. Choose from a varied line-up of activities, including:

Hands on History at the Schoolhouse: Dairy Day. Saturday, June 12 from 3-4:30 p.m. Families with children ages 7 and older will enjoy this combination of history, stories and the chance to churn up some sweet butter or tasty ice cream treats. The fee is \$8 per child, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations are required by June 5.

Stories at the Schoolhouse. Saturday, July 17 and Saturday, August 21 from 3-4 p.m. These fun social and learning opportunities welcome preschoolers and interested others to gather at the Little Red Schoolhouse and enjoy a mix of stories and activities. Free; children must be accompanied by an adult. Co-sponsored by the Oberlin Public Library.

Hands on History at the Schoolhouse: A Dutch Oven Cooking Demonstration. Saturday, August 14 from 3-4:30 p.m. Learn to cook in a Dutch oven, prepare a recipe, visit historic kitchens and sample a Dutch oven dish. Designed for families with children ages 7 and older. The fee is \$8 per child, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Register by August 7.

Lessons in the Past: Reserve your own date to step back in time to a typical school day in the early 1800s. Guests are welcomed by a costumed interpreter and immersed in historic school lessons including reading, penmanship, arithmetic, and more. Games and merriment are mixed in among the lessons, and weather permitting there is even time for “recess” and old-fashioned diversions on the schoolhouse lawn. Advance reservations are required, with a fee of \$3 per child, while chaperones may attend free of charge. Recommended for children at least 7 years old. The program lasts 90 minutes, and accommodates groups of 10-25 youngsters.

Families may also be interested in other children’s activities being hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center this summer, including Junior Docent camp for teens (June 21-25), three additional weeks of summer camps for boys and girls ages 8-13 (Local Inventors and Innovators Camp, Green Camp, and Architecture Camp), and a week of Day Camps for Scouts and Kids (with topics designed to assist Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts meet merit requirements). Families can also enjoy Chalk Walk fun on the grounds of the Heritage Center as part of the

Oberlin Chalk Walk (Saturday, June 26) and the new “I Spy Oberlin History and Architecture Scavenger Hunt” offered several times throughout the summer.

For more information about all of the Oberlin Heritage Center’s summer activities for children, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700. Reservations may be made online or at the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street, Oberlin) which is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and at other times by appointment. Free parking is accessible from 20 West Vine Street, Oberlin.

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