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## **Oberlin Heritage Center Welcomes School Groups** *Consider a Spring Field Trip to Make History Come Alive for Students*

The Oberlin Heritage Center is accepting reservations for spring field trips for guided tours of its historic sites, history walks through nearby community neighborhoods or hands-on-history programs in its one-room, pioneer-era Little Red Schoolhouse. All tours and programs can be tailored to enhance school lessons and meet academic content standards. Consider these fun, low-cost learning opportunities:

- (1) **Oberlin Heritage Center guided tours** include three historic Oberlin buildings that serve as backdrop for engaging stories of this community where everyday people have done extraordinary things ever since the college and town were founded in 1833. Learn about Oberlin's leading roles in the Underground Railroad and abolition, women's history, the development of aluminum, and more. Allow one hour and 15 minutes for the guided tour. Recommended for students 7 years of age and up.
- (2) **Lessons in the Past** allows school-aged children to take a step back in time inside the Heritage Center's Little Red Schoolhouse. This educational and fun program accommodates groups of 10-25, who will enjoy taking part in an atmosphere of learning that reflects 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, all tailored to the grade level of the group. Games and amusement are mixed in among the lessons, and weather permitting there will even be time for "recess" and old-fashioned diversions on the schoolhouse lawn. Recommended for students 7 years of age and up. Allow 1½ hours for this lively and memorable educational experience. Can also be combined with an on-site or walking tour option.
- (3) **History Walks** are designed to keep the stories flowing and the scenery changing as a guide leads your group through the neighborhoods surrounding the Oberlin Heritage Center. Recommended ages are given, but please note that most programs can be tailored to younger audiences. Walks will begin this year in April, and you can choose from four different themes:
  - (a) The **I Spy Oberlin Scavenger Hunt** is a fun program designed for children ages 5-11. Groups are guided on a walking tour of historic Oberlin while keeping their eyes peeled for historic markers, decorative details, and Oberlin oddities. It's a fun mix of architecture and history. The "hunt" begins at the Monroe House and continues outside in fair weather; we will "spy" inside our historic buildings if it's raining. Allow 1 hour for this walk.
  - (b) The **Soldiers and Civilians History Walk** recognizes men who fought in the Civil War as well as the civilians who formed relief groups, who continued their cry for abolition, and who served as a support system for the soldiers. This guided neighborhood walk will give guests a visual perception of the war through sites and photographs from the time while hearing stories of

exhausting marches, the frustration of false news, the struggles for equal treatment, and the loss of friends and family, told in the words of those who lived it. A 75- minute guided walking tour for students ages 9 and up.

- (c) The **Freedom’s Friends History Walk** includes stories of Oberlin’s famous freedom seekers and those known to have helped them make their way to freedom on the Underground Railroad. This tour begins at the front steps of First Church, U.C.C., at the northwest corner of Main and Lorain Streets and winds through downtown neighborhoods. Allow 75 minutes for this walk. Recommended for students 9 years of age and up. *Please note that the Heritage Center also offers a classroom outreach program about abolition and the Underground Railroad.*
- (d) The **Radicals and Reformers History Walk** through historic Westwood Cemetery promises a pleasing balance of scenic landmarks and stories of some of the many spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo. Find out which resident was remembered as "gentle, soft-spoken, tolerant and yet nobody's fool." Visit the headstone of the man who escaped from slavery (twice!) and later served on the Oberlin village council. Allow 75 minutes for this walk. Recommended for students 9 years of age and up.
- (e) The **Scholars and Settlers History Walk** features the buildings and landscape framing the 13-acre Tappan Square, a park-like setting in the center of downtown Oberlin. Students will see that history isn’t just something they read about – it’s all around them in buildings, cities, landscapes, and stories. They’ll learn about early residents and students and hear tales of triumph and misfortune, walking away with a lively appreciation of Oberlin’s unique heritage. Allow approximately 1 hour for this walk. Recommended for students 9 years of age and up.

Advance reservations are required for all field trip options. There is a \$3 cost per student for tours, history walks and “lessons;” adult chaperones visit for free. Inquire about adding on a copy of the new Oberlin History comic book for each student visitor – an engaging and informative way to learn more about Oberlin’s rich and diverse history. For more information or to make a reservation, please call Liz Schultz, the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, at (440) 774-1700 or email [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.edu](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.edu).

The award-winning Oberlin Heritage Center is located 35 miles southwest of Cleveland in Lorain County, Ohio. The organization is accredited by the American Association of Museums and operates a site of three beautifully preserved historic buildings. Through a year-round calendar of public programs, tours and other activities, the Heritage Center helps to preserve and share the powerful stories that are part of this nationally significant community. Visit the Oberlin Heritage Center’s website at [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) to find a variety of resources for educators, students, and those who simply want to learn more about Oberlin history. For more information, call (440) 774-1700.

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