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Oberlin Heritage Center Offers Award-Winning Education Programs for Students of All Ages

Oberlin is a *small town* with Big Stories, and the Oberlin Heritage Center loves sharing them! Plan a field trip, book an outreach program for *us* to come *you*, or rent a “history kit” to take time on your own to explore northeastern Ohio’s nationally significant history. Our award-winning programs are designed to teach accurate history, engage students through hands-on experiences and thought-provoking discussions, and help children better understand their lives today. Learning themes include everyday life in the 1800s, community landmarks and changes over time, women’s rights and education, the struggle to end slavery, scientific discovery, and stories that remind us that people back then knew how to have fun, too! All guided tours and hands-on history programs meet academic content standards and can be tailored to enhance specific school lessons. Many activities can be combined to offer a full-day’s experience. Consider these low-cost learning opportunities:

Upstairs / Downstairs Tour: Small Town, Big Stories EXPLORE the lifestyles and architecture of historic Oberlin in a guided tour of three beautifully preserved buildings that tells the nationally significant story of the community and college in Oberlin from their beginning in 1833 through the next 100 years. Learn about anti-slavery and the Underground Railroad, scientific discovery, women's history, early health movements, student life, and more. 75-minute guided tour for all grade levels (especially popular with Grades 3 and 4).

I Spy Oberlin: History and Architecture Scavenger Hunt SPY historic markers, decorative details, and oddities in historic Oberlin. Students will open their eyes and see hometowns in a new way following this tour. 60-minute guided activity for Grades K-5.

Lessons in the Past EXPERIENCE a typical school day from the early 1800s with a costumed interpreter in the Heritage Center’s one-room, pioneer-era Little Red Schoolhouse. Games and fun are mixed among lessons in readin’, writin’ and ‘rithmetic. 90-minute program for Grades 1-5; accommodates groups of 10-25 students at a time.

Scholars and Settlers History Walk ENJOY fascinating stories about Oberlin’s earliest residents and hear of the triumphs, debates, and scandals linked to the landmarks around Tappan Square. Compare the buildings of today to the buildings of yesteryear using historic photographs and maps. 60-minute guided walking tour for Grades 3-12.

Freedom's Friends History Walk HEAR about Oberlin's famous freedom seekers and those known to have helped them make their way to freedom on the Underground Railroad. 75-minute guided walking tour for Grades 4-12.

Radicals and Reformers Westwood Cemetery History Walk BE INSPIRED by tales of anti-slavery leaders, women's rights pioneers and dedicated overseas missionaries memorialized in the beautiful park-like setting of Westwood Cemetery. 60-minute guided walking tour for Grades 4-12.

Soldiers and Civilians History Walk COMMEMORATE 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. 75-minute guided walking tour for Grades 8-12.

Advance reservations are required for all field trip options; for tour guidelines visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org. There is a \$3 cost per student, adult chaperones visit for free. History Walks are available April 1 through October 31, while on-site tours and programs are offered year-round.

Outreach Programs

Heritage Center staff also can visit your classroom or youth group to lead students through a discussion, object exploration and hands-on activity. Programs can be tailored to different grade levels and interests. Topics include the Underground Railroad and Abolition, the Civil War, Historic Foods, Architecture, Fashion, Games and "History Mystery" objects. Outreach classroom programs are \$50 in Lorain County; an additional fee will be applied if outside of Lorain County.

History Kits

If you prefer an opportunity for more in-depth study of a topic, consider renting a new "history kit" designed in accordance with Ohio social studies and many common core standards. Teachers can rent a kit for two weeks and build on the learning experience by pairing it with a field trip or requesting a museum staff member to introduce the kit topic to students with a story, discussion and activity. Each kit contains books, hands-on objects, primary and secondary source documents, a vocabulary list, and a teacher's activity guide. Kits are available for grade levels 1-5, and grade 8. The rental fee for the history kit is \$25 for the kit alone, or \$50 for the kit plus an introductory program with a museum staff member. Delivery and pick-up of the kit can be arranged for an additional charge.

For more information about educational opportunities, 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.org.

The Oberlin Heritage Center is located 35 miles southwest of Cleveland in Lorain County, Ohio. The organization is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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