With more than 30 historic structures, this 800-acre historic site and Revolutionary War battlefield teaches more than 100 years of the Carolina Piedmont past. Using educators in period clothing, our educational programs take students back in time to focus on rural Southern life from the American Revolution to Reconstruction. A shaded picnic area, hiking trails, and a gift shop are also available to you and your students.

Program Availability: Tues – Fri. Programs may begin as early as 9:30 a.m.

Program fees and lengths are listed next to each program.

Chaperones will pay the student rate.

Please note: the Colonel Bratton House and Homestead House are closed for renovations for the duration of the 2023 – 24 school year.

EARLY TO RISE
PreK – 2nd Grade • $6 per student • 60 min
What was it like to wake up on Harriet Rainey Bratton’s antebellum cotton plantation? Students will find out how enslaved and free children got ready in the morning, smell breakfast in the plantation kitchen, and help with the morning chores in the barnyard. Students will be able to draw comparisons and contrasts between morning routines then and now.

THE BACKCOUNTRY IN REVOLT: A REVOLUTIONARY WAR EXPERIENCE
3rd – 5th Grade • $6 per student • 90 min
Loyalist or Patriot? The choice is yours! Students will learn how men and women, both enslaved and free, chose sides in the Revolutionary War in the Carolina Piedmont. Costumed interpreters will train them for the militia and teach them about the Battle of Huck’s Defeat, a battle fought on Historic Brattonsville’s property. Students will have to decide which side of the war they support and sign an oath of allegiance. (Students might use wooden toy muskets in this program).

THE BACKCOUNTRY IN REVOLT PLUS
3rd – 5th Grade • $10 per student • 3 hours (including a lunch break)
In the first half of the program, students will learn how the Revolutionary War in the Carolina Piedmont impacted the people who lived there, both enslaved and free. Following the lunch break, costumed interpreters will lead the students to learn more about life during the war, including taking them on a tour of the Huck’s Defeat Battlefield Trail. Students will then be asked to make a choice: would they have supported the Patriot or Loyalist cause? (Students might use wooden toy muskets in this program).

LIFE ON THE PLANTATION
3rd – 5th Grade • $6 per student • 90 min
Who lived on Harriet Rainey Bratton’s antebellum cotton plantation? While students explore the 1850s farm, costumed interpreters will teach them about the people who lived and worked there. Students will learn about the Bratton family, the enslaved people, and more to understand how cotton impacted everyone. (Students may experience cotton activities, operation of the historic cotton gin, or touring our barnyard, among other demonstrations).

LIFE ON THE PLANTATION PLUS
3rd – 5th Grade • $10 per student • 3 hours (including a lunch break)
In the first half of the program, students will learn about the basic function of a plantation and the people who lived there, both enslaved and free. Following the lunch break, costumed interpreters will take them to experience some of the work that people did on a plantation, including trade skills and cooking.

THE DAY IT RAINED MILITIA: THE REVOLUTION IN SOUTH CAROLINA
6th – 12th Grade • $6 per student • 90 min
For this in-depth look at the American Revolution in South Carolina, students will discover the broad impact of the war: how it affected civilians and the enslaved, how it became a brutal civil war, and how it ultimately helped to turn the tide of the Southern Campaign. This program will culminate with a guided tour of the Huck’s Defeat Battlefield, a battle fought on Historic Brattonsville’s property. (Students might use wooden toy muskets in this program).

WHITE GOLD: COTTON, THE GIN, AND AGRICULTURE IN ANTEBELLUM SOUTH CAROLINA
6th – 12th Grade • $6 per student • 90 min
Thanks to Eli Whitney’s cotton engine, cotton was king in the antebellum South. Students will learn about the cotton gin itself, along with the specifics of growing the crop. But since the new cotton economy most directly impacted the people on the plantation, students will also learn about its effect on the planter class and the institution of slavery. (Students may experience cotton activities or operation of the historic cotton gin, among other demonstrations).

BACKCOUNTRY IN REVOLT + LIFE ON THE PLANTATION COMBO
3rd – 5th Grade
$12 per student • 3 ½ hours (including a lunch break)

THE DAY IT RAINED MILITIA + WHITE GOLD COMBO
6th – 12th Grade
Experience two programs on the same day!
Focusing on the natural history of the region in which we live, learners are invited to experience the Carolina Piedmont and its connections to the rest of the world. The Museum is home to the Naturalist Center Lab with more than 2,200 specimens, the Settlemyre Planetarium, changing exhibitions, and more.

TOURS & PROGRAMS

Tours include guided activities in several galleries of the Museum. Programs take place in a classroom space and may use the hands-on Naturalist Center*. Tours do not visit every gallery, so please plan extra time to visit the rest of the Museum's galleries and exhibits if you so choose. Programs will either take place in the Naturalist Center or the classroom.

*Naturalist Center Lab specimens may vary based on SC or NC science standards or grade level.

ANIMAL DISCOVERY TOUR  Early Learners & K5  •  30 – 45 min
Designed to introduce young visitors to the main galleries of the Museum and its amazing natural history collection, this tour shares how animals use their body parts to obtain food, protect themselves, and move about. Explore our Piedmont Present and Piedmont Past galleries and then head to the Naturalist Center to look at some specimens up close!

ANIMAL COVERINGS  1st & 2nd Grade  •  50 – 65 min
This interactive class encourages students to examine hands-on specimens while comparing how animals use teeth, wings, claws, shells, fur, and other body structures to survive. Students will learn how scientists classify animals by describing their physical characteristics.

THE SUN’S FAMILY  1st & 4th Grade  •  50 – 65 min
Orbiting, bending, and tilting, children will learn about the movements of Sun, Earth, and Moon as they create a human model of the inner Solar System and learn how technology has allowed us to study space in this classroom-based program. Additionally, fourth graders will model the regular and predictable motion of objects in the outer Solar System, learn about the gas giant planets, and more.

ECOSYSTEM EXPLORATION TOUR  2nd, 3rd, 5th & 7th Grade  •  50 min
Observe how interactions within the ecosystem, such as climate, human activity, and availability of food and water affect plants and animals in Piedmont and African environments. Explore these diverse ecosystems through a tour of our galleries and Naturalist Center.

ADAPTIVE ENVIRONMENTS TOUR  3rd Grade  •  3 hours (45 – 60 min per rotation)
This tour takes students on a journey through the Pleistocene Epoch to discover how South Carolina’s landscape has transformed over time and learn whether animals adapted, migrated, or went extinct as the environment around them changed. Then, students will head to the Naturalist Center to model a South Carolina ecosystem using our vast collection of specimens and discuss food chains. The tour will conclude with a planetarium show that will highlight topics discussed throughout the tour.

EARTH’S MATERIALS & PROCESSES  3rd, 5th & 8th Grade  •  50 – 65 min
This Naturalist Center Lab-based program uncovers Earth’s materials, which are natural resources people use every day. Students will conduct mineral tests, examine rock samples, and model the rock cycle as they learn about how natural processes are constantly changing Earth.

ICE AGE CAROLINAS TOUR  4th – 8th Grade  •  60 min
In the Ice Age Carolinas exhibit, students will observe how Earth is constantly changing through natural processes, discuss claims that natural and human-made factors can contribute to the extinction of species, examine how clues from fossils explain Earth’s past, visit a model fossil lab, and sort real fossils in the Naturalist Center.

PICNIC AREA AND NATURE TRAIL

In the corner of the parking lot behind the Museum is a picnic area and Nature Trail. Explore the sights and sounds of a Piedmont forest and creek along our ¼ mile loop trail. Be on the lookout for native trees, seasonal wildflowers, and resident wildlife such as birds, reptiles, and insects. Pause at the edge of Big Dutchman Creek or bring a lunch to enjoy in our shaded picnic area.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE RESOURCES

Museum of York County is a Project Learning Tree (PLT) Environmental Education Center. Certified PLT Facilitators and Educators are invited to borrow the Tree Trunk educational kit from the Museum, free of charge! For more information on PLT and the Tree Trunks, scan the QR code or email scheduler@chmuseums.org with any inquiries about borrowing the Tree Trunks.
FEATURED SETTLEMYRE PLANETARIUM PROGRAMS
Max. visitor total per show: 50
All planetarium shows can include a look at the current night sky and identification of celestial objects. This live presentation can include content that will reinforce classroom activities, so be sure to let the Scheduler know what your students are studying when you make reservations. For the main part of the planetarium experience, choose between these recorded programs. For additional programs beyond our featured ones and for applicable SC and NC Academic Standards, contact the Scheduler.

BIG BIRD’S ADVENTURE: ONE WORLD, ONE SKY
Preschool – 1st Grade • 35 – 45 min
Big Bird, Elmo, and their friend from China take viewers on a journey of discovery to learn about the Big Dipper, the North Star, and the Sun. Take a trip to the Moon and see how it’s different from Earth. This show is also available in Spanish.

THE ACCIDENTAL ASTRONAUTS  K – 2nd Grade • 40 – 55 min
Follow the adventures of Cy and Annie as they embark on an unexpected journey into space. Explore the Earth, Sun, and Moon system with a wise-cracking spaceship computer. See an asteroid crash into the Moon. Bounce on the lunar surface and gain a new appreciation of our home planet.

PERFECT LITTLE PLANET  3rd – 6th Grade • 45 – 60 min
Discover our Solar System through a new set of eyes – a family from another star seeking the perfect vacation spot. Fly over the surface of dwarf planet Pluto, sail through the rings of Saturn, and walk on the surface of Mars.

TOTALITY  4th – 12th Grade • 40 – 55 min
Totality is a fascinating look at all the wonders of eclipses, especially total solar eclipses. This program examines what eclipses are, how and when they occur, and what wonderful sights they create. A portion of this program discusses what students will see from their school during the October 14, 2023 and the April 8, 2024 solar eclipses. Solar eclipse filters are available in the Museum Store for an additional purchase.

CAROLINA SKIES  4th Grade and above • 45 – 65 min
A live seasonal program that explores and explains what is currently visible in our nighttime skies. From planets to stars to constellations, students can learn how to identify features in our Carolina Skies.

Main Street Children’s Museum

133 E. Main Street, Rock Hill, SC 29730 • 803.327.6400
Group & Program Reservations: 803.981.9182

Program Availability: Tues & Fri; Programs may begin as early as 9 a.m.
Admission: $4 per person for groups of 15 or more • Program Cost: $2 per child
Program Length: 30 minutes; plan 1 – 1 1/2 hrs. total for your group’s visit
Each group reserving a program slot ensures that they get the entire museum to themselves.

Due to the limited capacity of the Main Street Children’s Museum, group programs must be booked at least one month in advance.

Inspired by the artwork of artist Vernon Grant, nursery rhymes such as Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater and Simple Simon are reimagined into three dimensional play and learning spaces for young children from birth to six.

AIR POWER  Ages 3 – 6 • 30 min
Based on the Air Maze, this program helps children learn more about the power of air. Children will have hands-on experience seeing air power at work, hearing about air power at work in our world, and making an air-powered craft.

I SPY  Ages 3 – 4 • 30 min
Upon arriving at the museum, children will be given a small book filled with pictures of the things found in the museum. Using binoculars, they will search the Museum for many of the whimsical things found in the book - gnomes, frogs, clocks, teddy bears, mushrooms, and much more! Children will get the chance to practice using their looking, hearing, and thinking skills in this museum-wide scavenger hunt. Finally, children will make and take home their very own set of binoculars to help them better explore the world around them.

COLOR AND ART  Ages 4 – 6 • 30 min
Learn about Vernon Grant, the artist whose work inspired the Main Street Children’s Museum playscape, and how he used elements found in the world around us, shapes, and bright, beautiful colors to create his illustrations. Children will engage in an interactive search for colors, shapes, and other items that may inspire creativity. They will use the inspiration found to create their own works of art.

KINGS AND QUEENS OF FAIRY TALES AND NURSERY RHYMES  Ages 3 – 4 • 30 min
Children will work together with museum educators to help make fairy tales come to life. Taking on the roles of Kings, Queens, Knights, Dragons and more, your students will get the chance to act out the roles of the different characters in the story, even the shier students will take part by being the whooshing wind, the pattering rain, and more. Children will make a crown to take home and have fun dressing up and using their imaginations as they transform into Kings and Queens in the Museum’s throne room.

Due to the limited capacity of the Main Street Children’s Museum, group programs must be booked at least one month in advance.

Groups with less than 15 students are charged group admission and program fees for a minimum of 15 students. Food and drink are not allowed in the Museum.
Parks with picnic areas are within walking and driving distance of the Museum.
Distance Learning Programs

PROGRAMS BY MUSEUM OF YORK COUNTY
Little Life Cycles and Carolina Skies can be delivered virtually.

LITTLE LIFE CYCLES TOUR  1st Grade • 30-45 min
Explore how animal babies grow and change as they become adults by acting out parts of bird, frog, and insect life cycles, and see exciting specimens from our Naturalist Center. Supplemental worksheets and activity guides will be provided ahead of the program for teachers.

CAROLINA SKIES  4th Grade and above • 45 – 65 min
A live seasonal program that explores and explains what is currently visible in our nighttime skies. From planets to stars to constellations, students can learn how to identify features in our Carolina Skies.

PROGRAMS BY MAIN STREET CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
The Magic of Color and The Royal Court’s Puppet Show can be delivered virtually.

THE MAGIC OF COLOR  Ages 4 – 6 • 30 min
Hosted by a Museum educator, this program is similar in content to the on-site program Color and Art. Students will take a virtual tour of the Museum where an educator will teach about Vernon Grant, the artist whose work inspired the Main Street Children’s Museum playscape, and how he used elements found in the world around us, shapes, and bright, beautiful colors to create his illustrations. Teachers can choose to extend the lesson with their own paint supply and electronic resources from the Museum, allowing students to learn more about colors and color-mixing by making their own amazing works of art with paint, just like Vernon Grant.

THE ROYAL COURT’S PUPPET SHOW  Ages 3 – 4 • 30 min
Hosted by a Museum educator, this program is similar in content to the on-site Kings and Queens of Fairy Tales. Students will get a chance to learn life lessons through puppetry. Teachers who sign-up for this program will be emailed a printable pdf crown for the students to make, so that they can become Kings and Queens.

School Group Information

RESERVATIONS
Contact the Scheduler at 803.981.9182 or 877.369.2290 Mon. – Fri. between 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. or email scheduler@chmuseums.org. Reservations must be made a month prior to your visit.

HOURS
Groups may visit:
Main Street Children’s Museum beginning at 9 a.m. Tues. & Fri.
Museum of York County beginning at 9 a.m. Tues. – Fri.
Historic Brattonsville beginning at 9:30 a.m. Tues. – Fri.

TEACHERS / CHAPERONES
Student supervision is the responsibility of the school staff at all times during your visit to the museum sites. Adult chaperones are welcome to attend with your group and are charged the student rate. We ask that chaperones register in advance due to limited seating in programs. Museum membership does not include admission to school tours and programs.

CONFIRMATIONS
At least one month prior to your scheduled field trip you will receive a confirmation letter and a general information sheet. You will also receive a reminder of your field trip via email a week before your scheduled visit. Please call the scheduler immediately if your confirmation letter is incorrect or if you do not receive this information. Please bring your confirmation letter with you on your visit.
Note: If you do not receive a confirmation letter, your group is NOT booked.

PAYMENT
Payment is due upon arrival. A minimum of 24 hours is required for cancellation or you will be charged a cancellation fee based upon admission and your reserved programs. School Groups with fewer than 15 students will be charged regular museum admission and program fees for a minimum of 15 students. (No cancellation fee will be charged if your school is closed due to weather.)

FOOD & DRINK
Food and beverages are NOT permitted in the Museums. Picnic areas are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Historic Brattonsville and the Museum of York County. Local parks with picnic areas are within walking and driving distance of the Main Street Children’s Museum.

GIFT SHOPS
Unique and fun items are available for sale at our three Gift Shops. Don’t have time to shop? Check out our online store at chmuseums.myshopify.com, or tell the Scheduler at the time of your reservation and we’ll work with you to pre-bag items for your visit.

Note: CHM program schedules and prices subject to change.