

Culture & Heritage Museums 2026-2027 Field Trip Planner

Historic Brattonsville



Main Street Children's Museum



Museum of York County



School Group Information



RESERVATIONS

Contact the Group Booking & Reservation Coordinator at 803.981.9182 Mon. – Fri. between 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. or email scheduler@chmuseums.org. Reservations must be made a month prior to your visit.

Note: CHM program schedules and prices subject to change.



HOURS

Groups may visit:

Main Street Children's Museum beginning at 8:45 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 with the teacher in advance due to limited seating in programs. Museum membership does not include admission to school tours and programs. For the safety of students, all chaperones must be approved by the teacher.



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 Group Booking & Reservation Coordinator 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. Chaperone payment is due upon arrival. Online General Admission payment is not valid for school programs. (No cancellation fee will be charged if your school is closed due to inclement 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 Museum of York County. Local parks with picnic areas are within walking and driving distance of Main Street Children's Museum.



GIFT SHOPS

Unique and fun items are available for sale at our three gift shops. If your students would like to shop, please let the Group Booking & Reservations Coordinator know in advance.

Teacher Testimonials

“Children love the hands-on activities & learning about how a real life historical farm worked.” “This is definitely one of my favorite field trips. All staff are fabulous!”

Historic
Brattonsville

Main Street
Children's Museum

“Thank you so much for a fun experience. The kids had the best time. Everything was age appropriate, engaging, and timely. We will be back for sure.”

“The exhibits were great. We enjoyed it and students were really excited to experience the exhibits and the lessons. We look forward to returning to the museum in years to come!”

Museum of
York County

Main Street Children's Museum

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

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.

BUBBLE BONANZA

Ages 2 – 4 • 30 min.

Discover a science-filled adventure. Children will get a chance to learn all things bubbles with a focal point on how they are made. Our educators will demonstrate how air allows them to form, while also exploring formation of bubble's shapes. A bubble water craft will be provided after our educational portion has come to an end (aprons to be provided), so prepare your students for a whirlwind of bubble fun!

SC State Standards: VA.CR.

KINGS AND QUEENS OF FAIRY TALES*

Ages 3 – 6 • 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. *SC State Standards: ELA.K.AOR.*

COLOR AND ART*

Ages 4 – 6 • 30 min.

Learn about Vernon Grant, the artist whose work inspired 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.

SC State Standards: VA.R.

SILLY SHADOWS

Ages 4 – 6 • 30 min.

Learn about light and the lack thereof through a wonderful lesson about shadows. Students will listen to a read-aloud before being given the chance to explore the Museum with flashlights. They will get the chance to make their own shadows dance on the wall and even make paper shadow puppets to take home. Join us for this wonderful exploration of light and dark and all the fun that can be had in between. *SC State Standards: 1-PS4-3.*

Program Availability: Tues. – Fri.; Programs begin at 8:45 a.m. and end by 10 a.m.
Admission: \$4 per person for groups of 15 or more students
Program Cost: \$2 per child
Program Length: 30 minutes followed by 30 – 45 minutes of free play ; plan 1 hour total for your group's visit
Chaperones will pay the student rate.

Each group reserving a program slot ensures they will have the entire Museum to themselves if they have 15 or more students. Groups booking only general admission are not guaranteed a private play session.

ROCKIN' RAMP RACEWAY

Ages 4 – 6 • 30 min.

What makes a race radically fast? Is it the height of the ramp? What the ramp is made out of? What about the car? Will a heavy car go faster or slower than a light one? Your students will find the answers to these questions when you join us for a fun experiment. Each child will make their own car craft using various materials and then try it out on different ramps. After the experiment, students get to take their new creations home with them. *SC State Standards: K-PS2-2.*



*These select programs are also available virtually. Fees for virtual programs are \$75 per program; maximum 25 students per program. Virtual programs must be conducted via Zoom and teachers are responsible for setting up the Zoom meeting between their class and Museum educators. Main Street Children's Museum virtual programs must be scheduled prior to 10 a.m.

Historic Brattonsville

1444 Brattonsville Road, McConnells, SC 29726 • 803.684.2327
Group & Program Reservations: 803.981.9182

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 the Antebellum Era. A shaded picnic area, hiking trails, and a gift shop are also available to you and to your students.

Program Availability: Tues. – Fri.; Programs may begin as early as 9:30 a.m.
Program Cost per Person: \$6 per program • \$10 per Plus program • \$12 per Combo program
Program Length: 60 min. – 3 ½ hours. (3+ hour programs include a lunch break)
Chaperones will pay the student rate.

Please note: the Homestead House is closed for preservation for the duration of the 2026 – 27 school year.

EARLY TO RISE

PreK – 2nd Grade • 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. *SC State Standards: K.H.1, 1.H.1*

THE BACKCOUNTRY IN REVOLT: A REVOLUTIONARY WAR EXPERIENCE

3rd – 5th Grade • 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. Historic 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).
SC State Standards: 4.1.CX, 4.2.CE, 4.2.CX

THE BACKCOUNTRY IN REVOLT PLUS

3rd – 5th Grade • 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, historic interpreters will lead students to explore how science and history can overlap through the preservation of historic buildings, the geography of the Huck's Defeat battlefield, and more. (Students might use wooden toy muskets in this program).
SC State Standards: 4.1.CX, 4.2.CE, 4.2.CO, 4.2.CX; 4-ESS2-1, 4-ESS2-2, 4-PS3-1, 4-PS3-4

LIFE ON THE PLANTATION

3rd – 5th Grade • 90 min.

Who lived on Harriet Rainey Bratton's antebellum cotton plantation? While students explore the 1850s farm, historic 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). *SC State Standards: 4.3.P, 4.3.CX*

LIFE ON THE PLANTATION PLUS

3rd – 5th Grade • 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, historic interpreters will take them to experience some of the work that people did on a plantation, including trade skills and cooking.
SC State Standards: 4.3.P, 4.3.CX

THE DAY IT RAINED MILITIA: THE REVOLUTION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

6th – 12th Grade • 90 min.

Join historic interpreters for an in-depth look at the American Revolution in South Carolina: how the war was fought, how it affected civilians and the enslaved, and how it 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). *SC State Standards: 8.2.CO, 8.2.CE, 8.2.CX*

WHITE GOLD: COTTON, THE GIN, AND AGRICULTURE IN ANTEBELLUM SOUTH CAROLINA

6th – 12th Grade • 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 living 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). *SC State Standards: 8.2.CX*



EXPERIENCE TWO PROGRAMS ON THE SAME DAY!

3 ½ hours (including a lunch break)

BACKCOUNTRY IN REVOLT + LIFE ON THE PLANTATION COMBO

3rd – 5th Grade

THE DAY IT RAINED MILITIA + WHITE GOLD COMBO

6th – 12th Grade

Museum of York County

4621 Mt. Gallant Road, Rock Hill, SC 29732 • 803.329.2121
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 students
Program Cost: \$2 per person per program • Program Length: 30 – 65 min.
Chaperones will pay the student rate.

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 2,400 specimens, the Settlemyre Planetarium, changing exhibitions, and more.

TOURS & PROGRAMS

Tours include guided activities in several galleries of the Museum and may utilize 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 specimens may vary based on SC or NC science standards or grade level.*

LITTLE LIFE CYCLES TOUR*

Early Learners & K5 • 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. *SC State Standards: CD-1, CD-10, CD-11, ILS1-1*

ANIMAL COVERINGS PROGRAM

1st & 2nd Grade • 50 – 65 min.

This interactive program set in the Naturalist Center Lab 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.

SC State Standards: 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 2LS4-1

THE SUN'S FAMILY PROGRAM

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.

SC State Standards: 1-ESS1-1, 1-ESS1-2, 4-PS3-3

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.

SC State Standards: 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-1, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-ESS2-1, 3-ESS3-1

EARTH'S MATERIALS & PROCESSES PROGRAM

4th & 6th 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.

SC State Standards: 4-ESS1-1, 4-ESS2-1, 4-ESS2-2, 6-ESS2-1, 6-ESS2-2, 6-ESS2-3

ECOSYSTEM EXPLORATION TOUR

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. *SC State Standards: 5-LS1-1, 5-LS1-2, 7-LS2-1, 7-LS2-2, 7-LS2-4*

MAN VS. NATURE: THE GENETICS OF CHANGE TOUR

8th Grade • 50 min.

This tour is designed to introduce genetic variation in natural selection and how it leads to traits changing in populations. This tour will also look at how man can affect the genetic pool through selective breeding in both positive and negative ways.

SC State Standards: 8-LS1-5, 8-LS4-1, 8-LS4-4, 8-LS4-5



*These select programs are also available virtually. Fees for virtual programs are \$75 per program; maximum 25 students per program. Virtual programs must be conducted via Zoom and teachers are responsible for setting up the Zoom meeting between their class and Museum educators.

Museum of York County continued

HOMESCHOOL TOURS & PROGRAMS

ANIMAL COVERINGS PROGRAM

For elementary aged. Please see previous description.

ECOSYSTEM EXPLORATION TOUR

For middle/high school aged. Please see previous description.

HOMESCHOOL MULTIPLE LEVEL GUIDED TOUR AND SCAVENGER HUNT

60 – 120 min.

This tour takes students through the Naturalist Center and galleries on a grade level appropriate scavenger hunt to discover both past and present animals. Students will be aided by an interpreter on their adventure through the Museum.



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 Group Booking & Reservation Coordinator 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, contact the Group Booking & Reservation Coordinator.

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.

SC State Standards: K-PS3-1; 1-ESS1-1

THE ACCIDENTAL ASTRONAUTS

K – 2nd Grade • 45 – 55 min.

Follow the adventures of Cy and Annie as they embark on an unexpected journey into space. Explore the Earth, Moon, and Sun 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.

SC State Standards: K-LS1-1; 1-ESS1-1; 2-PS1-4

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.

SC State Standards: 3-LS4-3; 4-ESS2-1; 5-ESS1-1; 6-ESS2-5

WE ARE STARS!

4th – 8th Grade • 40 – 55 min.

Follow a group of Victorian time travelers as they learn about the origins of atoms. Witness the formation of the first hydrogen atoms after the Big Bang and then watch how those hydrogen atoms gather into galaxies and stars. Learn how the stars forged all the atoms needed to make life. See the creation of planet Earth and follow the atoms and molecules forward through to where the time travelers started their journey.

SC State Standards: 4-LS1-1; 5-PS1-1; 6-LS1-3; 7-PS1-1; 8-ESS1-2

CAROLINA SKIES

4th Grade and above • 30 – 45 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.

SC State Standards: 5-ESS1-1; 5-ESS1-2; 8-ESS1-3; E-ESS1-3

PICNIC AREA & 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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.