

Fieldtrips to Vance Birthplace

Vance Birthplace State Historic Site preserves the site of the birthplace of North Carolina's Civil War Governor. The two-story Vance home is reconstructed in the footprint of the original 1790s pioneer "mansion" and is furnished as it would have been from 1790 to 1840. The six farm outbuildings offer a glimpse into life on an early 1800s farmstead while stories and demonstrations bring this history to life.

The Visitor Center houses exhibits on the life of Gov. Zebulon Vance as well as a 15-minute film on the life of the governor. Outside, our picnic shelter offers seating for up to 50 people and others may picnic on the grass nearby.

Education Programs

The **House & Grounds Tour** will introduce students to life on a mountain farmstead in the early 1800s. The tour compares the life of the wealthy Vance family to average settlers of the time and to our lives today. We also offer a program discussing life during **Slavery in WNC**, including how slavery happened, how life differed for the Vances and for enslaved people, and how changes to the Buncombe County economy changed life for enslaved people in the region.



In the hands-on **History Mystery** program, students will use their investigative skills to examine 200 year old artifacts to discover how they were used and which modern tools are similar.

We offer **demonstrations** on working and spinning wool, weaving using small and large looms, wood working tools and techniques, and flintlock rifle firing and drills. You should allow 20-30 minutes for each demonstration. After lunch, your group can **make crafts** including beeswax candles, button spinner toys, or cup and ball toys. Fees may apply.

Suggested Schedule

9:15 AM Arrive on site, bathroom break

9:30 AM History Mystery Game (Group 1), House & Buildings Tour (Group 2)

10:30 AM Group 1 and Group 2 switch activities

11:30 AM Set up for picnic lunch at our shade shelter and/or on the grass

12:15 PM Optional activities/demonstrations or teacher led activities on the grounds.

1:30 PM Load bus and return to school

Important Planning Tips

Because of the size of the Vance home and site facilities, we prefer to schedule two classes (44 students) on one day. Depending on staffing, we are often able to host groups of up to 84 students in a single day. The outdoor picnic shelter is limited to 50 people, but classes are welcome to picnic or set up coolers on the grass nearby. Please check with staff to verify that you are not eating lunch or having recess on our neighbors' property.

Please have students dress appropriately for the visit. Students will be sitting, standing, and walking and should wear comfortable clothes and shoes. We recommend multiple layers of clothes since the program will take place in the visitor center, outdoors, and in the unheated log cabin.

Group Program Request Form

School or Group: _____ Date(s): _____

Arrival Time: _____ Leave By: _____ Lunch Here? _____

Grade Level (K to Adult Ed): _____ # of Participants: _____ # of Chaperones: _____

Programs (free):

- Life in the Early 1800s: House Tour (30-45 min)
 - Include Tour of Outbuildings (15-30 min)
- History Mystery: 1800s Tools (45-60 min)*
- Slavery in WNC: House and Grounds Tour (60 min)
- Film: Civil War Governor of the South (15 min)*

Contact Us:
(828) 645-6706
vance@ncdcr.gov

Times listed are per group. We suggest splitting into two groups and conducting two simultaneous programs. Group maximum is 20 adults or 28 kids and 2 adults, due to the size of the historic house.

** These programs both take place in the auditorium and cannot be done at the same time.*

Activities (fee-based):

- Candle-Making (2nd grade & up)
\$2.25/child, 60-90 min, 56 kids
- Cup & Ball Toy (any age)
\$0.75/child, 20-30 minutes, up to 35 kids
- Button Spinner Toy (3rd grade & up)
\$0.75/child, 20-30 minutes, 35 kids
- Corn Husk Doll Making (4th grade & up)
\$2.25/child, 20-30 minutes, 35 kids

Demonstrations (free):

- Spinning Wheel & Wool Working
20-30 minutes, up to 18 kids
- Weaving on Large and Small Looms
20-30 minutes, up to 18 kids
- Wood Working Tools & Techniques
20-30 minutes, up to 18 kids
- Flintlock Rifle Firing
20 minutes, up to 50 kids

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____