

## **CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center**

### **Teacher's Packet for Museum Tours**

The CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center has a history of partnering with schools to help educate the youth in our area. We have served schools from several North Carolina counties including: Lenoir, Wayne, Craven, Greene, and Jones. With a guided tour of the CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center, students will see artifacts, experience stories, and step into environments that reveal culture and diversity, historic perspectives, geographic relationships, economics and development, as well as technological influences in the nineteenth century. Students are invited to approach North Carolina's history in such a way that arouses curiosity, stresses critical thinking and connects the past to the present.

#### **Scheduling Your Tour:**

When you are ready to schedule your tour, call the museum and speak with Rachel at **(252)526-9600 ext. 222**. We require a minimum of two week notice for guided group tours, however, we will try and work with all our groups. Have a few dates selected as options or at least a first and second choice.

Tours of the museum are offered Tuesday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.. When scheduling a tour, teachers can choose from a few options. The tour times listed below are approximate. Please allow for adequate travel and tour times.

- 1. Life of a soldier/Civil War weapons and uniform talk, spinning, and casemate/rope making demonstration –1 hr. to 1 hr. 15 min.**
- 2. Museum tour – 45 min.**
- 3. Civil War medicine/hygiene, life of a soldier/Civil War weapons and uniform talk, 19<sup>th</sup> century toys and games – only 1 hr. to 1 hr. 15 min.**
- 4. Civil War medicine/hygiene, rope making, life of a soldier/Civil War weapons and uniform talk, 19<sup>th</sup> century toys and games- 1 hr. 30 min. to 2 hrs.**

Plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to your scheduled tour time. Groups arriving 20 or more minutes after their scheduled tour time may lose the opportunity for a guided tour. All groups will begin with watching a ten-minute film.

At the teacher's discretion, students can shop in our gift shop, located in the museum. Items that reflect the history and culture of North Carolina are available and many popular items for students including books, 19<sup>th</sup> century toys, stuffed animals, and Civil War documents. Teachers should allow an additional 20 minutes for shopping, which is not included in the tour times above. When making your reservation, please be prepared to let the museum know whether the group will shop. We can also send you gift shop forms in advance and fill the orders will your group is on tour.

### **Additional Tour Information:**

A maximum of 100 students can tour at a time. The total number of students will be divided equally into groups. This means that classes may need to be split up or combined to accommodate tour procedures. Chaperones are needed for each group at a ratio of 1 chaperone for every 10 students. Chaperones should remain with their group throughout the tour. The chaperone's role is to enhance the positive atmosphere for learning on tour by encouraging attentiveness, participation, and appropriate behavior.

### **Directions to the museum can be found on our website:**

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/neuse.htm>. Bus parking is located directly behind the museum on the corner of Caswell and Heritage Street. Picnic facilities are located at Neuseway Nature Park across the King Street Bridge. For more information, visit <http://www.neusewaypark.com/454/Neuseway-Nature-Park> or call (252)939-3282. In planning your visit, know that some teachers combine the experience of touring our facility with that of the CSS Neuse II replica located on Heritage Street when volunteers are available.

### **Pre-Visit Activities: (We have lesson plans for fourth and eighth grade students on our website)**

Teachers should visit our website and are welcome to visit the museum prior to their class visit. Your ability to make classroom connections with your students is very valuable to the overall experience. We encourage teachers to prepare their students for the field trip. The activities listed below may help students have a better understanding of what to expect during their visit and offer a bit of background information.

- Explore the geography of Lenoir county and Eastern North Carolina with your students. Have students identify geographical features such as Cape Fear, the Cape Fear River, the Outer Banks, the Neuse River, the Appalachian Mountains, the Pamlico Sound, the Albemarle Sound, and the Atlantic Ocean. An understanding of North Carolina's borders and locations of cities such as Kinston, Wilmington, and Goldsboro will be beneficial on tour. Have students use historical maps to compare them with modern maps. Encourage students to consider how geography played a role in North Carolina's history.
- Explore museums and their role as educational and cultural resources for communities. Have students define terms such as museum, gallery, interpretation, artifact, archaeology, exhibit, preservation, and living history. Research museums and cultural institutions that exist in the Lenoir county community or North Carolina as a whole. Encourage students to consider how communities can benefit from cultural institutions like museums as well as learn about a wide variety of ways that museums preserve and present history.
- Explore the class's interest and access to history. Take a class or grade level survey, asking for information such as what is your favorite time in history, person in history, book about history, etc. Poll students to learn how many watch The History Channel; have been to a historic site, battlefield, or museum, etc. Present or publish the survey results for the grade or school to see.

Have students bring an item or picture of an item that is part of their own family's history or genealogy and share that story with the class. Encourage students to make connections to their favorite historical time periods or topics and consider how their own personal history is connected to a much larger picture.

### **Post Visit Materials:**

Keep the momentum of the field trip experience alive with one or more of these activities once you return to the classroom.

- Have your students write thank you letters, make cards, or a banner for the museum's docents. They can describe what they saw, learned, or experienced during the visit as well as include any photographs or drawings. You can send thank you items to

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100 North Queen Street,  
Kinston, North Carolina 28501

- Have your students compile photos, stories, and favorite things about the visit into a multimedia presentation or website. With parental and administrative approval, the presentation can be put on the school's website or the museum's (or both). Have them decide whether they would have enjoyed living during the Civil War and why.
- Make a classroom timeline of North Carolina history in the 1860's. A banner spanning the perimeter of the classroom can highlight famous and not-so-famous North Carolinians, inventions, events, battles, and leaders. Fill in gaps with U.S. history information and continue the timeline up through the present by including the schools, teacher's, and student's history too.
- Encourage students to take others to the museum. They can extend their experience to others by bringing their family and friends to the museum. Whether it is a lazy weekend day, school holiday, or special event at the museum, museum staff enjoy seeing and talking with student visitors. Who knows, the student may become a summer camp participant, volunteer, or future museum professional.

### **The Final Step of Your Tour Experience:**

The day after your tour, museum staff will email you a link to an online survey. This quick questionnaire will provide us your feedback and help us learn more about your visit and improve our services. Your responses are very important to us so please take a moment to complete the questionnaire when it arrives and encourage your fellow teachers to do the same.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWRZi0ikBLSWTrMloDsGviMCZOpSeKyBFvvYX5I4sDcGcMIw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWRZi0ikBLSWTrMloDsGviMCZOpSeKyBFvvYX5I4sDcGcMIw/viewform?usp=sf_link)