



Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site Gold Panning Policy



The last lode (underground) mining at Reed Gold Mine occurred in 1912, though people continued to actively pan for gold in Little Meadow Creek throughout the twentieth century. In 1966, Reed Gold Mine and the properties' creeks were designated National Historic Landmarks. Today, it remains a protected historic property by both federal and state law, and panning is no longer allowed in the creek.

Part of the mission of Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site is to teach the history of North Carolina gold mining and share the state's gold mining heritage with its visitors. To further this mission, an educational panning area adjacent to Little Meadow Creek has been established. Today, visitors to Reed Gold Mine can learn the proper process and various techniques of gold panning from instructors.

Panning is available **April through October**, weather permitting.* The panning area troughs meet ADA requirements. **

Heat index is 100°, torrential rain, thunder or lightning, temperature is below 55°

Because of the physical demands associated with panning (pans weighing 10-15 pounds and troughs 3 ft. off the ground), each child under the age of 8 years cannot pan unless individually assisted by an adult in their party.

Groups:

1. Groups of 10 or more, with a minimum 2 week advanced reservation will receive the **group rate of \$2.14 per pan**. If you have a Tax I.D. number, then the group rate is **\$2.00 per pan**. Reservations two weeks or less to the day of your site visit will pay the regular price of \$3.21 per pan.
2. All participants must be 8 years of age. **Any child who is 7 years of age and under must be individually accompanied by an adult to pan.** School groups 3rd grade and up are eligible for panning, grades 2nd and below are not. **No exceptions will be made.**
3. If your group is planning on shopping in our gift shop, please allow only 10 children inside with an adult at a time. **We recommend children bring \$10-\$20 to spend.**
4. Due to large group sizes, we are now requesting that schools try to **minimize the amount of parental chaperones by a 1:10 ratio**. For example, for a group size of about 150 (6 classes of 25), there should be 6 teachers and 12 parent chaperones.