

Thank you for your interest in scheduling a field trip to Compass Inn Museum!

Taking a field trip to the Ligonier Valley Historical Society's Compass Inn Museum offers students and teachers an opportunity to experience United States history through real objects, people, and stories of the Ligonier Valley. Field trips engage the senses, bring curriculum concepts to life, and inspire new questions.

Compass Inn Museum is an authentically restored, early 1800s stagecoach inn situated on the original Philadelphia-Pittsburgh Turnpike. Serving as a hub for communication and transportation during the early 19th century, Compass Inn contributed to a uniquely American travel experience.

Your Field Trip to Compass Inn Museum

This Field Trip Planning Guide is designed to help you plan a meaningful learning experience for your students at Compass Inn Museum. Inside you'll find how to make reservations and select activities for your students in addition to other important information.

Our field trips allow students to experience history through interaction with primary sources such as artifacts and buildings while providing real-life connections to the past. Through tours, students strengthen their visual literacy and critical thinking skills by careful observation of the historic environment. Students' experiences are enriched through multisensory activities: cooking over an open fire, dipping candles, creating a small lantern, or smelling burning coal from the 19th-century blacksmith forge. Some activities include crafts students may take home with them.

On the next page, the activities, demonstrations, and experiences you may use to build your field trip are listed. Typically, a regular tour will take approximately 1 to 1.5 hours and each additional activity will last from 30-40 minutes. We are able to accommodate approximately 110 students at one time.

Again, thank you for considering Compass Inn Museum as a field trip for your students, and we hope to see you soon! Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Tamra Steiner-Niida
Head Docent & Museum Interpreter
tlsteiner@compassinn.org
(724) 238-4983

Basic Fees

Over Twenty (20) Participants – Students = \$4.50 Adults = \$7.50
Under Twenty (20) Participants – Students = \$6.50 Adults = \$9.50

Activity Options

Guided Tour (grades K-8) *Included with admission*

The guided tour is made up of two parts:

- Compass Inn
- The Barn, including a 19th century stagecoach and Conestoga Wagon

Toys and Games *Included with admission*

Students learn about and experience the toys and games children played with in the early 19th century.

Gift shop *Included with admission*

Students have the opportunity to shop in our small gift shop.

If desired, we also offer pre-made gift bags for a small fee for each student.

Cooking *Add \$2.00 per student*

Working with one of our experienced cooks in our 19th century cookhouse, students learn to make donuts and learn about different domestic chores. In addition, students will strengthen their visual literacy skills by examining various artifacts.

Tin Punch *Add \$2.00 per student*

Students will create a tin punch lantern to take home using awls. Students have a choice of several patterns that are sent to teachers ahead of time. Teachers may also opt to have students design their own pattern in advance as part of an art lesson.

Candle Dipping *Add \$2.00 per student*

Students learn how candles were made by hand-dipping candles that they may take home with them.

Blacksmith Demonstration *Add \$2.00 per student*

Blacksmithing demonstrations are led by a professional blacksmith. Students learn the history of blacksmithing and have the chance to ask questions while watching the blacksmith work.

State Standards

- History
 - 8.1 B, C
 - 8.2 A, B, C
 - 8.3 A, B, C
- Science Engineering & Technology
 - 3.4 A1
 - 3.4 B3, B4
- Arts & Humanities
 - 9.2 A, D, F, H, K

Reservations and Information

- Field trips to the Compass Inn Museum can last anywhere from 1.5 hours (tour only) to 4 to 5 hours depending on the number of activities chosen and number of students.
- Teachers may contact Tamra Steiner-Niida to determine the appropriate number and kind of activities given the age and number of students and the desired length of the field trip. Please call (724) 238-4983 or e-mail tlsteiner@compassinn.org.
- We welcome students of all ages and abilities at Compass Inn Museum. Please contact Emily Barth to customize the field trip to suit your students' needs.
- When reserving your field trip, please indicate special considerations (i.e. allergies, wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, etc.), so we can make appropriate accommodations for your visit.
- 25% of the estimated cost is due with the return of the signed reservation form three weeks from the time of reservation. The remaining cost is due on the day of the field trip. We are not able to provide refunds if students are absent on the day of the trip, since we provide staffing and supplies based on the final head-count as of two weeks in advance.

When you call or e-mail to reserve your field trip....

- Choose at least three potential dates
- Indicate the number of students and adults that will be visiting
- Identify which activities you would like your students to do
- Specify arrival and departure times.
- Identify any special needs for your group.

Lunch

- Groups who wish to eat lunch on the grounds are encouraged to bring a bag lunch. Benches are available on the grounds for students to picnic. In the event of inclement weather, we will do our best to provide shelter for students to have lunch. Please note that outbuildings are not heated.
- Please be aware there is no refrigeration on site.
- Groups are expected to leave the area in the same condition as they found it. The museum will provide one large garbage can for trash. In order to keep costs down, we ask that you take your trash with you at the end of the day.
- Chaperones, not museum staff, are responsible for the supervision of students during lunch and ensuring students clean up the lunch area. Students will not be permitted to leave lunch until a staff member inspects the lunch area.

Chaperones

- For every 20 students, 1 chaperone is free. It is encouraged that you have at least one chaperone for every group. Groups are typically 10-15 students. You will be notified ahead of time how many groups to split the students into.
- Adults must remain with their groups at all times and are expected to assist museum staff with supervision.

Buses

- Buses will park behind the museum in the gravel lot. If traveling with more than one bus, drivers will be required to back into the parking lot in order to accommodate multiple **buses.**
- **Before finalizing the time of your field trip at Compass Inn Museum, please confirm with the bus company that the times will fit the bus route schedule.**
- Buses will not be permitted to idle while in the parking lot.

Directions

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike, exit at the Donegal Interchange #91.

Turn left on Route 31 a short distance to the intersection of 711 North.

Take 711 north 12 miles to the intersection of Route 30.

Turn right on Route 30 heading east.

Proceed 3 miles.

Compass Inn Museum is on your right at the corner with the blinking light.

Turn right and park behind the museum.

From Greensburg and points west

Take Route 30 East

Continue 3 miles past Ligonier to Laughlintown, PA

Compass Inn Museum is on your right at the corner with the blinking light.

Turn right and park behind the museum.

From Route 22.

From Route 22, take 217 South to Route 30.

Turn left onto Route 30 East

Continue 10 miles to Laughlintown, PA.

Compass Inn Museum is on your right at the corner with the blinking light.

Turn right and park behind the museum.

From Johnstown

Take Route 56 to 219 South.

Take Route 30 exit off of 219 South

Turn right onto Route 30 West

Follow Route 30 for approximately 11.5 miles to Laughlintown, PA

Compass Inn Museum is on your left at the corner with the blinking light.

Turn left and park behind the museum.