

ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL

# HISTORY CENTER

DOWNTOWN ORLANDO

2025-2026

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS



*History* HAPPENS HERE

# THE HISTORY CENTER EXPERIENCE



**E**xplore 14,000 years of Central Florida's rich history! Book a school field trip to get hands-on with history, including exploration using artifacts, authentic replicas, and primary sources.

Before scheduling your field trip, come visit to see all that we have to offer – admission is always free for teachers!\*

If you can't visit us, we'll come to you! We have a variety of History on the Go programs to choose from which send History Center staff into

your classroom with replicas, primary sources, and loads of fun activities and games. Virtual workshops offer a flexible way to engage with History Center staff in a live, interactive lesson. If you'd prefer a self-facilitated experience, Museum in a Box is an object-based, multimedia learning experience that brings the History Center into your classroom!

We look forward to seeing you and your students and wish you a successful school year!

*\*All Florida teachers with valid identification.*

## SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Self-Guided Tours of the History Center allow educators and children to set the pace and guide their own experience through the museum. These tours include:

- Suggested exhibit-rotation schedules
- Teacher guides for each exhibit
- Standard-based history explorers booklet for students

**Cost for Self-Guided Tours: \$8 per student (minimum of 10 students). One free chaperone per 10 students. \$10 per additional chaperone. Educators are free.**

### UPCOMING EXHIBIT REMODEL

The History Center is working to build an even better visitor experience, including updating our current exhibitions to better reflect the experience of our entire Central Florida community. During this process, individual exhibitions may be closed at times. When booking your field trip, please note that this process may affect the availability of exhibition selections.

# GUIDED FIELD TRIPS

We offer a variety of themed options for guided field trips to best fit your curriculum needs. Whether you want to focus on Florida's indigenous people and Native American tribes, Black leaders and innovators in our community, life as a Florida pioneer, or a highlight of 14,000 years of Florida history, there are many ways to delve into Central Florida's diverse history.

## Know before you go:

- Guided Field Trips are available Monday – Friday, September 30, 2025 – May 12, 2026
- Scheduled 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.\*

- Maximum of 150 students per day
- School groups that bring lunches can eat in Heritage Square Park at the conclusion of the field trip.
- All field trips meet Florida State Standards. Ask for a complete list of standards or visit our website.

**Cost for Guided Field Trips: \$8 per student (minimum of 15 students).\*\*  
One free chaperone per 10 students.  
\$10 per additional chaperone.  
Educators are free.**

*\*For alternative tour times, please contact the Education Department at 407-836-8580. \*\*Exceptions may be made for special needs.*

## HOW TO BOOK YOUR FIELD TRIP

Registration for both guided and self-guided field trips is available online. To register for a field trip, please visit [thehistorycenter.org/education/field-trips/](http://thehistorycenter.org/education/field-trips/). We'll email a confirmation packet upon receipt of your registration.

## Mail or call in your deposit

A \$50 deposit is required to reserve guided school tours (cash, check, or credit card). Deposits are refundable with notice of cancellation no less than two weeks prior to your visit.

Deposits are applied to the total cost of your tour. Upon arrival, we will collect payment for the number of students and chaperones in attendance.

**All field trips are available for FREE to Orange County Public Schools on a first-come, first-served basis, thanks to a generous grant through the United Arts Foundation. Book your program now!**

**If you are unable to book online, call the Education Department at 407-836-8545 or email Summer Ellis, at [Summer.Ellis@ocfl.net](mailto:Summer.Ellis@ocfl.net).**





# FIELD TRIP OPTIONS



## The Pioneer Hustle (Adaptable for grades K-5)

Do your students have what it takes to survive on the Florida frontier? They'll make butter (and eat it too), roll their own beeswax candle, explore replica toys and games, and work as a team to build a pioneer homestead with a fun STEM challenge.

### Content-area focus

- Hardships of pioneer life in Florida
- Compare life now with life in the past
- Interaction with the Seminole Indians, causes and effects of the Seminole Wars

### Tour includes

- Hands-on workshop: butter- and candle-making\*
- Courtroom mock trial experience
- Seminoles exhibit, with visit to a replica pioneer cabin
- Natural Environment exhibit, with STEM challenge



- Transportation exhibit or current traveling exhibit (varies throughout the year)
- Historic character cameo performance (puppet show option is available for Grade 1)

*\*Activities and exhibits are subject to change.*







## First Floridians (Adaptable for grades 2-5)

Did you know that Florida's earliest people arrived more than 14,000 years ago after journeying to this continent across the land bridge from Asia?

In this tour, students will immerse themselves in the culture and lifeways of Florida's indigenous people and learn how their lives were impacted by the arrival of explorers. They'll sculpt their own piece of Timucua-inspired pottery, explore hands-on artifacts and replicas, and work as a team to build their own Native American dwellings with a fun, STEM challenge.

### Content-area focus

- Compare the cultures of Native American tribes in Florida, with a focus on the Timucua and Seminoles
- The motivations of explorers who came to Florida and the effects of European colonization on the Native American tribes of Florida
- Causes and effects of the Seminole Wars

### Tour includes

- Hands-on workshop: pinch-pot pottery take-home activity\*
- Courtroom mock trial experience
- Natural Environment exhibit
- Seminoles exhibit
- Transportation exhibit with STEM challenge
- Historic character cameo performance

*\*Activities and exhibits are subject to change.*



## Breaking Barriers (Adaptable for grades 2-12)

Whether it's Mary McLeod Bethune's work to enact education equality, the Rev. Nelson Pinder's leadership in the Civil Rights movement, or Bessie Coleman's historic achievements in flight, Central Florida's history includes many stories of ordinary people breaking barriers to achieve extraordinary things. In this tour, students will learn about Black leaders and innovators in Central Florida who played an important role in paving the road towards equality. They'll explore primary sources and hands-on replicas, work together to solve a map-based STEM challenge, and create a landscape portrait inspired by the Florida Highwaymen artists.

### Content-area focus

- Explore the contributions of significant individuals to Florida
- Entrepreneurs from various social and ethnic backgrounds who have influenced the local economy
- Florida's role in the Civil Rights Movement
- Examining primary sources such as maps and articles to better understand history

### Tour includes

- Hands-on workshop: Highwaymen-style painting take-home activity\*
- Courtroom mock trial experience
- Transportation exhibit
- Celebrating Community exhibit with STEM challenge
- Seminoles exhibit or current traveling exhibit (varies throughout the year)
- Historic character cameo performance

*\*Activities and exhibits are subject to change.*





## Highlights of the Museum (Adaptable for all grades)

Looking for a comprehensive tour of the whole museum? This tour highlights 14,000 years of Florida history, spanning a large variety of content areas, and can be easily tailored to meet your grade level standards. Select exhibits and activities of your choice to best fit your curriculum needs!

### Content-area focus

- Compare Native American groups in Florida
- The motivations of explorers who came to Florida and the effects of European colonization on the indigenous peoples already here
- Pioneer life in Florida
- Citrus and cattle industries
- Florida's role in the Civil Rights Movement
- Tourism impacts on Florida's economy and growth
- Development of Florida's major industries

### Exhibit details

- Natural Environment exhibit includes Florida's animals and environment, early indigenous people, first European contact
- Seminoles exhibit includes Seminoles, pioneers, citrus, and cattle
- Transportation exhibit includes railroads, steamboats, airplanes, World War II, early tourism, and the introduction of Walt Disney World
- Celebrating Community exhibit includes an introduction to Black history, slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Civil Rights Movement



### Tour includes

- Hands on workshop: butter-making and replica pioneer toys
- Courtroom mock trial experience
- Natural Environment exhibit
- Seminoles exhibit
- Your choice of the following: Celebrating Community exhibit, Transportation exhibit, or the current traveling exhibit (varies throughout the year)
- Historic character cameo performance (a puppet-show option is available for kindergarten and Grade 1)

*Note: The Highlights tour covers a wide range of content areas, which means we'll introduce topics and cover a few of the basics. For more in-depth discussions and hands-on activities geared towards specific standards or themes, we recommend scheduling a focused tour: Breaking Barriers, First Floridians, or Pioneer Hustle.*



## Citizens & Civics (Adaptable for grades 6-12)

From the role of Congress in steering the development of early Florida to the huge presence of military bases during the World Wars, the impact of the United States government has helped shape our state's history for more than two centuries. In this tour of the History Center, students will learn about the three branches of the federal government, types of law, constitutional amendments, and more through an exploration of Central Florida's history. The tour features hands-on activities, a mock trial in our historic courtroom, and a map-based STEM challenge, based on Florida Civics Standards, that reinforce and expand upon classroom instruction.

### Content-area focus

- The three branches of federal government and their functions
- Types of law and how laws are created
- Federalism
- Constitutional amendments and their impact on society
- Trial processes and the role of juries



### Tour includes

- Courtroom mock-trial experience
- Hands-on activity to compare the obligations of federal, state, and local governments
- Pioneers and Seminoles exhibit
- Celebrating Communities exhibit with STEM challenge
- Transportation and Tourism exhibit with a game to explore the responsibilities of each executive department

*\*Activities and exhibits are subject to change.*



# HISTORY ON THE GO OUTREACH PROGRAMS



**Bring the History Center to your school. No busing or transportation needed!**

## **Classroom Workshops**

History Center staff will join you in your classroom for an interactive lesson. Program highlights include the integration of hands-on STEM challenges and the use of museum replicas, games, and art as mediums for teaching history. Through exploratory play, students learn about historical topics and make connections between past and present.

### **Workshops include**

- One-hour lesson per classroom
- Traveling box of activities, games, and replicas
- Take-home activity
- Pre-visit lesson (aligns with Florida State Standards)
- Serves one whole grade level\*

*\*May require multiple dates, depending on the number of classes and academic schedules.*

To book a Classroom Workshop, please register at [TheHistoryCenter.org/Education/History-in-the-Classroom](http://TheHistoryCenter.org/Education/History-in-the-Classroom). We'll email a confirmation packet upon receipt of your registration. If you have any questions, call the Education Department at 407-836-8545 or email Summer.Ellis@ocfl.net.

**Cost for Classroom Workshops is  
\$150 per class.**

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## **Available themes**

### **Florida's Indigenous People (Adaptable for grades 1-4)**

Discover the important contributions of Florida's earliest residents. Students will learn about the lifeways of Florida's indigenous people and Native American tribes, with a close look at the Timucua and Seminoles. Through hands-on exploration, they will be introduced to the culture and traditions of both groups, as well as the impact of European colonization on native peoples. Students will work together on a STEM-based building challenge, interact with a variety of secondary sources, and design their own take-home Timucua tattoos!





## **Expedition Florida**

### **(Adaptable for grades 4-5)**

Delve into the lives of European explorers and Florida's pioneers and learn how both affected Florida's native peoples. Students will learn about the European explorers' motives for conquest and the conflict among countries as they fought to gain control over this valuable peninsula. They'll also learn about the hardships the pioneers later endured as they struggled to survive in a new, harsh climate and the causes and effects of the Seminole Wars. Students will play classic games with a historic twist, work together on a pioneer homestead STEM challenge, and explore pioneer replicas.

## **Florida's Fight for Freedom (Adaptable for grades 3-8)**

Uncover the stories of Black leaders in Florida who played an important role in paving the road towards equality. Students will learn about Black leaders and innovators in Central Florida whose accomplishments in STEM, art, education, and activism made history. They'll also learn about the history of historically Black communities in Florida, from Fort Mose to Eatonville. Students will work together on a map-based STEM challenge, interact with a variety of primary and secondary sources, and create their own Highwaymen-inspired landscape artwork!





# MUSEUM IN A BOX OUTREACH PROGRAMS



Museum in a Box is an object-based, multimedia learning experience that brings the History Center into your classroom! This self-contained program is easily facilitated by teachers. Inside the box, you'll find an audio player, along with artifacts and replicas. When you place the objects on the top of the box, an audio response will play. Over the period of a week, you can incorporate the box into your social studies curriculum and share it among your grade level.

## **Museum in a Box includes**

- Audio box with replicas and real artifacts
- Supplemental activities and a standard-based lesson plan
- Easy-to-clean objects with instructions and materials for disinfecting between use in each classroom
- Pre-recorded, 30-minute guided tour of the History Center's permanent exhibitions that can be incorporated into your social studies lesson before or after the Museum in a Box experience

**Cost for Museum in a Box is \$125 per week.** Boxes can be picked up and dropped off at the History Center. Otherwise, shipping and handling are an additional fee.

For schools outside the seven-county Central Florida region, an additional week of rental is required to cover the time the box is in transit.

To book a Museum in a Box, please register at [TheHistoryCenter.org/Education/History-in-the-Classroom](http://TheHistoryCenter.org/Education/History-in-the-Classroom). We'll email a confirmation packet upon receipt of your registration. If you have any questions, call the Education Department at 407-836-8580 or email our school services associate, Courtney Burns, at [courtney.burns2@ocfl.net](mailto:courtney.burns2@ocfl.net).

## **Available themes**

### **Florida's First People**

#### **(Adaptable for grades 2-5)**

Provides an overview of the cultures and history of Florida's indigenous peoples and Native Americans, including the Timucua, the Seminoles, and Windover Bog – an ancient burial site.

### **The Ocoee Massacre of 1920**

#### **(Adaptable for grades 6-12)**

Reflects on a century of social transformation, the importance of voting rights, and how to navigate primary sources. Includes an introduction to the event itself, more than 500 years of Black history in Florida leading to that moment, and the impact on our community in the more than 100 years since.

# BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY!

ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL

## HISTORY CENTER

DOWNTOWN ORLANDO

TheHistoryCenter.org

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