

YOUR GUIDE to Lake County Parks Field Trips and Group Programs

“Where Memories are Made”

Lake County Parks
www.lakecountyparks.com
219-769-PARK



2009

Group Tours at Buckley Homestead Indiana History from 1850 – 1917

Dates available: May through June and September through October

Two-hour tours

Morning tours can be booked to start at 9 a.m. or 9:30 a.m.

Afternoon tours can be booked to start at 11:30 a.m. or noon

\$1 per person, including teachers and chaperones; \$20 minimum per group

Reservations and pre-payment required at least two weeks in advance by calling 219-769-PARK. No gift shop, but ask about special souvenir bags for \$1 each.

Tour Description

This tour is designed to enhance Indiana history taught in the 4th grade. It can be adjusted to fit the needs of younger grades, but is not recommended for Kindergarten or Pre-school groups.

Students will be divided into groups of not more than 30 students each. (Schools with larger groups can be accommodated if chaperones remain outside of buildings.) Students will visit each of three different sites; the 1910s farm, the 1900 one-room schoolhouse, and the 1850 log cabin. Interpreters are dressed in historically accurate clothing to add to the visual comprehension.

On the farm, the interpreter asks, “What do you see and why is it here?” From the animals, to the buildings, to the pastures and gardens, there is much to see and understand about subsistence living. Animals on the farm include chickens, geese, rabbits, sheep, cows, pigs, horses, and cats.

In the schoolhouse, children will learn what a school day was like at the turn of the 20th century. They will be asked to compare and contrast their school with Buckley’s. They will notice similarities and differences in the buildings, the teacher, and the curriculum. Many things have changed, and yet, some things we do today are derived from our early agrarian days.

At the cabin, children will be asked to imagine moving here before the Civil War. What did they need to survive? What was their priority once they got here? Student will be asked to compare and contrast living in their modern home with living in the 1850 Buckley cabin.

Additional Information

The path is just under one mile of gravel and bark chip trail. Students will be outside much of the time and should dress for the weather. If a teacher has a student in a wheelchair or other special needs, it should be disclosed at the time of the reservation. Arrangements will be made to make the tour as accessible as possible.

Buckley Homestead Corn Maze – Great for Groups

Make your way through a life-size puzzle of corn when 10½ acres of cornfield are cut into a challenging maze. **The 2009 theme is Cornucopia.** Each child receives a map and an answer sheet to assist in finding nearly 30 Buckley Challenge questions. This is a great hands-on learning experience for children. With assistance, even young students can learn to follow the map and navigate the natural trails. The challenging and fun questions are placed throughout the maze so that part of the fun is finding the questions and figuring out the correct answers.

WEEKDAY CORN MAZE RESERVATIONS FOR GROUPS

Groups may reserve two hour time slots in the maze weekdays September 8-October 23, 2009 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. A reservation to the corn maze may be made as its own adventure or added to the regular educational tour at the Buckley Homestead Historic Farm (separate fees required for each). See historic farm tour description elsewhere in this booklet. Schedule the farm tour, have lunch at the park, and finish off your visit in the corn maze. Some groups may wish to visit the maze first and finish with the farm tour. For group reservations call 219-769-PARK M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. There is a 25-person minimum and 200 person maximum for corn maze reservations. A \$50 deposit is required at the time of reservation. The balance is paid at the park. A refund is provided only if the park department cancels the program due to weather conditions.



Admission: \$5 per person
\$4 for children ages 5-12
Free for children under age five

Information for Leaders: Bus parking is in the lot just south of the corn maze. Shelters for lunch are located adjacent to the parking lot. Please be prepared for rainy weather. Remember, too, that it gets warm in the maze. Although water is available, you may ask your students to bring a water bottle. Sun screen and hats are recommended. Restrooms are located at the Visitor Center near the parking lot. We recommend that there are enough chaperones to accompany groups of six to eight students. This number depends on the age of the students. After a brief introduction to the corn maze, the students will enter the maze in groups and the fun begins.

Group Tours at Gibson Woods Nature Preserve

The Outdoor Education Staff at the Gibson Woods Environmental Awareness Center offers group programs for all ages. The Center has a classroom for presentations, a hands-on exhibit area with live animals, and a bird observation room. Three miles of trails along an ancient dune and swale landscape highlight the nature center's natural beauty.

Reserved programs are 1½ hours. Programs are tailored to suit the age, experience, and grade curriculum of individual groups. When staff is available, we can conduct offsite programs at other Lake County Parks.

All programs at Gibson Woods include an indoor presentation and outdoor activity. Dress for the weather. Programs are \$1 per person with a \$20 minimum per group and a 40 student maximum. Specialty programs may have a smaller capacity. Reservations and deposit required at least 10 days in advance by calling 219-769-PARK. For information call Gibson Woods Nature Preserve at 219-844-3188.

Program	Season	Grade	Description
Into the Woods	All year	All	Overview of Gibson Woods with walk and live animals. Includes endangered animals, conservation and urban wildlife.
Tree ID	Fall	All	It takes more than a leaf to ID a tree. Learn the essentials that make identification easy.
Aquatic Ecology	Spring & Fall (Spring only at Gibson Woods)	3 and up	Go beyond fish and frogs to search for all organisms hidden in the water. Learn about food webs and the importance of aquatic organisms.

Interactive Educational Programs

Have you visited Gibson Woods and want to learn more? We have developed interactive educational programs that are designed for special interest or home schooled groups to do on their own. These programs, which are available free on our website, meet Indiana and Illinois educational requirements for 5th to 7th grade science. Topics available now are "Poison Ivy" and "Fire Ecology". Visit www.lakecountyparks.com and click on the Educational Resources button.

School Groups May Choose Their Own Topic for Historical Tour

Deep River County Park

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays in May, June, September and October

Fee: \$1 per student or adult with a \$20 minimum fee.

Grades 3 and up

Reservation and \$20 deposit must be received at least one week prior to the tour.

Time: 1 ½ to 2 hours, depending on age

Students will tour Wood's Historic Grist Mill and learn about the earliest industry in Lake County and why it was important to the early settlers in the area. They may also preselect one of the following topics:

- **Can You Dig This?** – Students will be able to dig for artifacts, then identify and talk about their finds and how the items were used in an earlier community. What will they find? Depending where they dig, they may find beads, bones, buttons, shards of pottery, shells and more (**offered only in the fall**).
- **Letters from Home** – Students will read aloud excerpts from letters written about life in the community of Deep River.
- **Vintage Base Ball** – Gather on Grinder Field to learn about America's game of base ball guided by the rules of 1858. Learn how they differ from today's rules
- **Homemade Treasures** – Quilts: their history, their use and how they were made. Students will view some of the collection at Wood's Mill.
- **Deep River** – Where does the river begin? Where does it go? Learn why it was so important to settlers in Lake County Indiana.

Time for shopping for souvenirs in the Visitor Center Gift Shop will also be included in the field trip. Groups may stay in the Park after their tour to picnic and/or play.

Call the Lake County Parks Business Office at 219-769-PARK to make a reservation for your school class or home school group.

Early Indiana History - 18th Century Fur Trade Era

School/Group Tours at Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park

By reservation only on Friday, May 15, 2009 (only date offered)

Morning tour time slot: 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Afternoon tour time slot: 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

\$1 per person, including chaperones and teachers; \$20 minimum

Reservations and deposit required at least ten business days in advance

Appropriate for 4th - 6th grade curriculum

Reserve your time slot now. Space is limited.

Minimum (20 students); Maximum (140 students) per time slot

Call 219-769-PARK M-F 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Registration deadline: May 1, 2009

History books open wide and come to life as your students visit the 18th century. The Fur Trade Era is bustling with activity when you arrive. Your students will see how the Grand Kankakee River waterway played an important role in early commerce and trade.

Native Americans traded furs while the Voyageurs, British, and French clashed over who the land belonged. There is plenty for the students to see and hear and learn. They will feel like they just spent a day in the 18th century. You, too, will enjoy jumping back into history! The tour is completely outside, so please remind your students to dress for the weather.

Upon registration, teachers will be sent a confirmation packet, complete with pre or post activity sheets

Preschool in the Park

- Deep River County Park
- Thursdays in May, September and October 2009
- 10:30 -11:30 a.m. OR 1-2 p.m.
- Ages 3 & 4 - Preschool
- Fee: \$1 per child
- No registration needed
- Meet at the Visitor Center

While older brothers and sisters are in school, bring the preschoolers to Deep River County Park for a program designed just for them. Children may hear stories, play games, make a craft, sing songs, do finger plays, and take home a treat or coloring page. Make lasting memories by having fun alongside your preschooler. Everyone is invited to bring a brown bag lunch and picnic and hike in the Park on your own before or after the program. Meet at the Visitor Center to begin your program.

2009 Programs

May 7	Hop, Hop Hoppy Spring Hike	What hops? We will take a hike in the park to find out. Maybe it will be you!
May 14	Nursery Rhymes	Learn nursery rhymes, then recite them and act them out.
May 21	All About Corn	We will learn about different kinds of corn, visit the Grist Mill to see some corn ground into cornmeal, learn what makes corn pop and more.
May 28	Ride 'em Cowboy!	As we pretend to be cowboys, we will ride our (pretend) horses and sit around the campfire. Don't forget to wear your hat and bandana.

Preschool Program for Day Care Groups

The same topics listed above are available to day-care groups on Wednesday of the same week at 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. The one-hour programs are by reservation only for a fee of \$25.00 per program for a group of 20 or less, payable in advance. You may picnic or hike in the Park on your own before or after your program. Call 219-769-PARK to make your reservation.

Water, Water, Everywhere

Whihala Beach September 22, 2009

9:30 to 11 a.m. or 11:30 to 1 p.m.

For Grades 6-8

Fee: \$2 per person (\$20 deposit required)

Reservation and deposit required 10 working days prior to visit

Information: 219-844-3188

Reservations: 219-769-PARK (7275)



Lake Michigan has shaped the Calumet Region and its people. Look at the natural history of the lake from glaciers to its present ecology. Then gain an understanding of how people have relied on Lake Michigan from fur trading to modern industry. We will test water quality, identify the composition of sand, and study beach dwelling animals.

Pioneer Day Hands-On Experience 2009

This daylong experiential educational program is guaranteed to create memories for years to come. Students learn about life during the early settlement period of southern Lake County. They learn about chores, recreation, school work, and challenges of life during 19th century.

Students prepare their own dinner, recite lessons, learn spelling words and tongue twisters, bake cornbread and squeeze lemons, and help prepare the gardens for the coming season. They also make a craft item to take home.

Available Dates: April 1, 3, 6, 8*, 13, 15, 17, 20, or 22

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (please arrive at 8:45 a.m.). It is important that groups are on time.

Age: Recommended for 4th and/or 5th graders. Not appropriate for younger than 2nd grade.

Capacity: 120 students (do not include adult chaperones in this count). Minimum number per individual school is 30 students. School groups are combined to fill to the capacity. Groups are further divided into four activity areas and rotated throughout the day.

Cost: \$5.00 per person (include students, chaperones, & teachers)

\$50 deposit required at time of reservation, balance due in full at the park site.

Reservations: Taken beginning Wednesday, December 3, 2008. Call the Lake County Parks at 219-769-PARK. Reservations are open until filled or March 15, 2009.

Payment/Deposit: Staff and volunteers are assigned after reservations are processed. Without advance payment, assignments cannot be made.

*April 8 is devoted to home school and smaller groups that cannot meet the minimum number. All groups will be combined to meet the capacity number.

We recommend schools arrange for PLENTY of chaperones and remind everyone to dress according to weather conditions. We will be prepared to continue with the program rain or shine, except during major thunderstorms. Schools are required to furnish certain supplies. A list of instructions, activities, and a schedule will be mailed to the school upon registration.