



School Tour Handbook

2011-2012

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Tour Information

For a one of a kind experience come explore Cracker Country, a rural Florida outdoor living history museum, and learn firsthand how the daily lives of early Florida settlers revolved around chores, seasons, family, and community.

Programs Overview



Take a step back in time while we engage, inspire, and educate your students!

During your visit, students will spend one morning immersed in a rural Florida community of the past. They will take back to their modern world knowledge of the differences and similarities between their lives and those of children in 1898.

Your class/group will have a docent leader, dressed in clothing accurate to the 1890s, as their guide in this adventure. This leader will take you along one of two separate, but very similar, learning tracks. The tour focuses on farm & household chores, community buildings and the skills and trades of early settlers. Both tracks will offer activities appropriate to the season. All groups will dip a candle, make a class jump-rope and shop in our Cracker Country General Store.

Tour Enhancements

Look the Part of the Past

For an additional \$4.00 per student,

boys receive a period looking straw hat and girls receive a calico bonnet to wear during their visit. The hats and bonnets are theirs to take home after their tour is over.

Be sure to check the “Look the Part of the Past” option on the reservation request form, and indicate the number of boys and girls to request this special option for your students.

Electronic Field Trips

Electronic Field Trips are videos and interactive E-learning activities that serve as

a great supplement for classes that attend the museum. Each episode expands on the content students learn during their visit and concentrates on expanding their knowledge of Florida’s history. Electronic Field Trips are available for \$15.00 each.

Be sure to check the “Electronic Field Trips” option on the reservation request form and indicate the quantity desired for each episode.

Tour Details

We offer tours Tuesday through Friday, on the following dates:

Fall Season Tours

September 27 -
December 2

(No Tours Nov. 11 and
Nov. 22-26)

Spring Season Tours

March 13 - May 11

Tour length: 2.5 hours
(10am to 12:30pm)

Tour admission:
Students: \$6.00

One teacher / chaperone
admitted FREE for
every 10 students.

Additional Adults: \$6.00

Teacher Resources



Cracker Country's New Education Page

Here you will find free resources including:

- Lesson plans and activities for the classroom
- Online interactive educational activities
- Photos, video clips, and teacher forums



Electronic Field Trips

What are Electronic Field Trips?

- An innovative program for K-12 students that meets state and national standards
- Videos on DVD that bring Florida's past to life and make it relatable for students
- Interactive E-learning activities that reinforce learning
- Teacher resources for further exploration

Benefits include

- Infusing technology into the classroom
- Utilizing a multiple faceted program that appeals to a variety of learners
- Enhancing students' content area knowledge
- Helping to improve students' communication and literacy skills

www.crackercountry.info

This website is also the portal for resources that are included with Electronic Field Trips. After purchasing Electronic Field Trips, you can use the enrolment key in the DVD case to access the resources.

Episodes Available

School Days: Join Kate and Levi Moore on a typical school day and find out what it was like to live in a rural Florida community in 1898. Will they learn the importance of hard work both at school and at home? Follow the children as they discover that education extends beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Art of the Barter: Discover the importance of bartering in late 19th-century rural Florida through the eyes of Albert Moore. Follow Albert as he barterers with neighbors, trades with the general store owner, Mr. Terry, and earns an income as a blacksmith.

Cowhunters: View Cracker Country's first documentary, in which we explore the Cracker tradition in Florida. What types of lives did these cowmen live? How were they able to combat Florida's thickets and wild animals? Delve deeper into their stories and experiences as experts in Florida's history navigate you through this rugged lifestyle.

Reservation Request & Payment Process



If you have selected
Tour Enhancements

1. **Send your reservation request online, by fax or mail.**

You can submit your reservation request on our web site, www.crackercountry.org. You may also mail or fax your reservation request form. School tour programs usually fill in a matter of three to four weeks, so send in your reservation request immediately. We are not able to take reservations by telephone, email or in person at this time.

2. **We'll contact you if your requested dates are unavailable.**

Due to high demand, the dates you requested may no longer be available. A Cracker Country staff member will contact you in a timely manner to discuss the availability of additional dates.

3. **You receive your confirmation within two weeks of your request.**

This will include: (1) your confirmed tour date; (2) request for an immediate deposit of \$50 to reserve your spot and payment for the Electronic Field Trip if selected.

4. **You pay the balance on your tour date.**

Bring the remainder of your payment balance with you on the day of your visit. We cannot accept purchase orders, so cash, check or credit cards, please. We realize your attendance numbers may change. Please contact us immediately if there is a change in your student or class/group numbers.

Enjoy your journey back in time!

Look the Part of the Past

- Be sure to check the “Look the Part of the Past Option” on your reservation request form and indicate the number of boys and girls for this option. The \$4 extra for each student will be added to your total amount due on your confirmation letter.

Electronic Field Trips

- Be sure to check the “Electronic Field Trips” option on your reservation request form and indicate the quantity desired for each episode.
- In your confirmation letter, you will receive a request for the \$50 deposit required for the school tour reservation as well as the amount due for the Electronic Field Trips.
- The Electronic Field Trip episodes that you have purchased will be waiting for you on the day of your trip.

Need More Information?

For tour details, content questions, tour reservation, and payment questions, please call (813) 627-4225

Teachers & Chaperones



Information for your tour at Cracker Country

Things you should bring...

- ✓ Appropriate clothing for the season. Remember, Cracker Country is an outdoor history museum, so please dress accordingly.
- ✓ A first aid kit, just in case of an emergency.
- ✓ Lunch for after your tour. There are picnic tables adjacent to the parking area, so leave your lunches in your vehicles.
- ✓ Money for souvenirs. The Cracker Country General Store is one of your tour stops. Remember to have students keep their money in their pockets until they stop to shop.
- ✓ Your sense of adventure, because traveling back in time to 1898 will be an amazing experience.

So your group will have the best experience possible, please share this information with all teachers and chaperones that will be coming on the day of your tour.

Museum Etiquette

Tours begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. Please arrive 15 minutes early to allow for check-in. We are unable to extend tours beyond 12:30 p.m.

To protect our historic buildings and antique collections, eating, drinking, or smoking in any building is not permitted.

Some of the items in our collections are fragile or could be damaged if handled incorrectly. Please do not touch items unless instructed to do so by one of our interpreters.

For the safety of you and our animals, do not pet or feed our livestock.

Either a teacher or chaperone must escort students to the restrooms and water fountains.

Adults are encouraged to participate in hands-on activities, however, please allow students to go first.

By turning off your cell phones, you help maintain the historical 1898 experience and atmosphere. Please step away from your group if you must make a call.

Traveling to Cracker Country



Traveling from Tampa, St. Pete, and/Clearwater via I-275 to I-4 Eastbound.

From I-4 Eastbound, take Exit #6 for Orient Rd. and turn right off the ramp. There will be a sign for the State Fairgrounds entrance immediately on the left hand side. Check in at the Security Guard gate for entry and once on the Fairgrounds, follow the signs to Cracker Country.

Traveling west from Lakeland and/Orlando via I-4.

Traveling west on I-4 take I-75 southbound to exit #260 and merge RIGHT onto Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Going west, pass the light at U.S. Hwy 301 to the next light which is Orient Road. Make a right at Orient Road. There is a sign for the State Fairgrounds entrance on the right-hand side, just before Orient Road changes from two lanes to four lanes. Turn right there and check in at the Security Guard gate for entry and once on the Fairgrounds, follow the signs to Cracker Country.

Traveling from I-75 North or South from Ocala or Sarasota areas.

Traveling north on I-75, take Exit 260-B and merge left onto Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, SR-574 West. Traveling south on I-75, take Exit 260-A and merge right onto Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Pass the light at U.S. Hwy 301 to the next light, which is Orient Road. Make a right at Orient Road. There is a sign for the State Fairgrounds entrance on the righthand side, just before Orient Road changes from two lanes to four lanes. Turn right there and check in at the Security Guard gate for entry and once on the Fairgrounds, follow the signs to Cracker Country.

Using a GPS or web-based mapping program.

If you're using a GPS, or web based mapping program, to help guide you to Cracker Country, use the following address for best results:
4700 Orient Rd., Tampa, FL.

Please notify the bus driver, teachers, & chaperones to enter through the Orient Road Fairgrounds entrance and follow the signs to Cracker Country.

General Store & Shopping



In the Cracker Country General Store you will find a wide selection of historical toys, games, candy, books, 1890s reproductions and much more.

Prices start at an affordable \$0.25.

TOYS

Whimmy diddles, ball tosser, Game of Graces, marbles, jacks, tops, whistles, Jacobs ladders, dolls, and more.

CANDY

Fudge, stick candy, peanut brittle, drop candy, and more.

BOOKS

Strawberry Girl, McGuffey Readers, Pioneer Days, A Land Remembered, cookbooks, and more.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Quilts, teas, honey, pot holders, tea sets, spice jars, and more.

CLOTHING

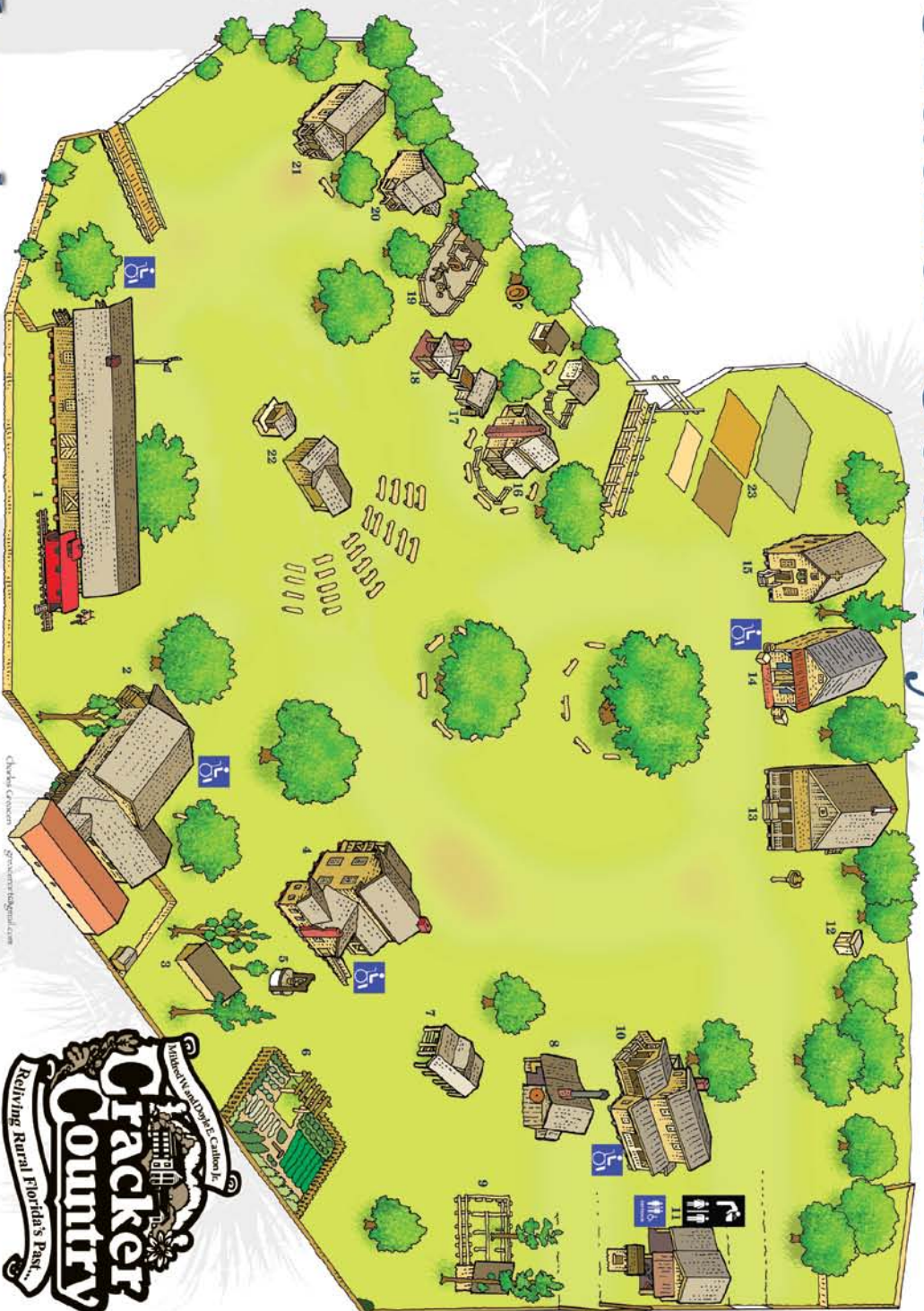
Handmade reproduction aprons and bonnets, caps, historic style bonnets, handmade baby quilts, and more.

SUNDRY ITEMS

Lanterns, soaps, floral waters, coffee mills, mortar and pestles, and more.



Cracker Country



Legend

- 1 Railroad Depot and Caboose
- 2 Governor's Inn
- 3 Candle Shed
- 4 Carlton House

- 5 Well
- 6 Kitchen Garden
- 7 Corn Crib
- 8 Blacksmith Shop
- 9 Chicken Coop

- 10 General Store
- 11 Restrooms
- 12 Outhouse
- 13 Schoolhouse
- 14 Terry Store

- 15 Church
- 16 Smith House
- 17 Smokehouse
- 18 Syrup Kettle
- 19 Cane Mill

- 20 Print Shop
- 21 Post Office
- 22 Center Stage
- 23 Hands-on Farm

