Old Fort Western
2020
Guide to Educational Programs at the Fort

Representing over 300 years of early Maine and New England History

Site of Cushnoc
Plymouth Trading Post, 1628-1649

A French & Indian War Military Outpost
1754-1767

The S & W Howard Store
1767-1807

Home to James Howard
& His Descendants
1770-1850

Tenement Apartments
for Augusta’s Workforce
1850 - 1920

Owned by the City of Augusta since 1922, Old Fort Western is a non-profit organization funded through City appropriation, admission fees, program fees and private donations.

Call us today at 626-2385 or go to www.oldFortwestern.org
Dear Educator:

Fort Western’s mission is to “preserve, protect and interpret this National Historic Landmark Fort, Store, House, & Tenement.” As Interpreters of the Fort we strive to educate the public as to the significance of Fort Western and its environs in Maine and American History. Our programs take place in and around the 1754 garrison and outbuildings; and are designed to engage all the senses: sight, sound, smell, touch and taste. We offer hands-on programming that immerses students of all ages in life as it was lived during the 18th century. We use all the available resources, i.e. written documentation (letters, journals, account books, correspondence, etc.), material culture (Howard Family objects and furniture passed down and donated as well as archaeological collections of Fort Western, Fort Halifax and Fort Richmond) and oral history (stories passed down through time) to form a strong basis for historic interpretation.

Whether you are from a public or private school, homeschool, historical society, or library, our programs can be adapted to meet your needs. If you have budgetary constraints or busing is an issue, many of our programs can be successfully delivered in the classroom.

Come experience life in the 18th century at Old Fort Western!

Sincerely,

Linda J. Novak, Director/Curator

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### Old Fort Western Educational Programming At-A-Glance

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The ABCs of Old Fort Western
Kindergarten and 1st Grade
Participants will go through the Fort identifying objects that begin with each letter of the alphabet from A-Z. Activities associated with these words will engage all their senses, sight, sound, taste, touch and smell. Students will view a letter, repeat the letter name, and sound and then relate it to their environment. Letter names and sounds will be reinforced in each station while the student is being introduced to the Fort through designated activities that focus on the featured letters.

Daily Life in the 18th Century
Kindergarten through 3rd Grade
This program will immerse students in daily 18th century life. Participants will do a hearth-based activity, such as food preparation; a wood related activity, such as sawing wood for household use; a textile related activity, such as weaving or carding and spinning wool, and a bed chamber activity where they make an 18th century “bed” and learn about public and private space. All these activities are designed to help them better understand the nature of daily life among ordinary citizens in post-Revolutionary Maine. Depending on group size, weather, or season, other activities such as games and gardening may be added or substituted. Upon request we can substitute bartering at the store as a station

Fort Western – A Three Century Time Line of New England History
Grade 4 and up
This time line program is station based and takes the participant through the different periods of the Fort with an underlying focus on survival needs. The site of the Pilgrim Trading Post at Cushnoc (1628-1649) is visited to learn about barter and early trade on the Kennebec River. The French & Indian War Era Fort (1754-1767) is visited to explain how the Fort was necessary to allow settlement and economic stability of the region. In a visit to The S & W Howard Store (1767-1807), how interdependence develops into a global economy stemming from the “wants” and “needs” of the settlers is investigated. A visit to the Howard Family Home (1770-1850) emphasizes the growth of prosperity of the new nation. Finally, a visit to the Tenement apartment (1850-1919) discusses how the Fort became housing for the Augusta workforce and how survival needs once again take precedence. Please Note: This is only partially hands-on. Stations that take place within the actual museum spaces limit the ability for hands-on activities. Each station is designed to immerse the students in how life changed through time and includes discussion of the geography and development of the Kennebec Valley as well as an overview of Fort Western's place in the history of Maine and New England. Please allow two hours for this program.

Life as a French & Indian War Era Soldier
Grade 4 and up
Participants will learn about the events that led up to the French and Indian War (The Seven Years War), the life of a provincial soldier in service to the King, and discuss life on the Kennebec from Cushnoc to Fort Western (1628-1767). As members of James Howard’s Company, they will explore the cause and effect of this war which occurred before the American Revolution and experience the daily living conditions of the soldiers during that time in the orderly room and the barracks. They will also learn about the mission of the soldiers and how they prepared to defend the Fort as they drill on the parade grounds and fire cannon in the blockhouse. Please allow two hours for this program.
Revolution! Benedict Arnold’s March Through Maine
Grade 5 and Up
The program takes place in the area outside the Fort. Its focus is on what it was like to be a soldier marching with Benedict Arnold to Quebec. Students will arrive at the boat landing and will be assigned a company. The leader will provide background information on the outcomes of the French and Indian War that lead to Benedict Arnold and his troops coming to Fort Western. They will then march around the Fort carrying supplies, build an encampment, make fire and discuss the proposed route to Quebec using the Montressor Map. In closing, the students will compare and discuss the proposed route with the actual difficulties encountered by Arnold’s Army on their route to Quebec. Please allow two hours for this program.

Living in the 18th Century
Grade 5 and Up
This program is meant as a continuation of Daily Life in the 18th Century for grades 5 and up. Extending the view of 18th century life beyond the home, students will experience how the efforts of 10-18 year olds contributed to the community. Students will realize the importance of shipping to the settlers of early Maine and learn how to tie some basic knots. In another station students will learn how wood was used in building structures, work an auger to drill holes and prepare a peg for joinery. In other stations food preservation, gardening and the life of the farmer will be discussed as well as learning about the importance of the store as a focal point to provide the wants and needs of the community. This program will involve students thinking more critically and inferring more often as children their age became more valued members of their community.

How We Know What We Know:
Grades 5 & 6 (basic concepts)
Grades 7 to 12 (in-depth concepts and analysis)
This program is designed to go through the process of interpreting history. Students will explore how written documentation, material culture and oral history are used in collaboration to form a good basis for historic interpretation. More specifically, this program allows the student to explore how we combine these three sources to understand how historians interpret history and how we learn about social, technological and economic change. Please schedule two hours for this program; it begins in the Old Fort Western Learning Center in City Hall and ends with a mini tour of the Fort.
The Participants will:
Handle and decipher written documents and learn the difference between primary and secondary sources.

Participate in a “word-of-mouth” oral exercise to discover the value and potential pitfalls of oral history.

Learn how material culture helps corroborate written documentation and oral history by:
- Handling historic objects and using them to date chronologically.
- Participating in an archaeological “dig-in-miniature” in order to analyze artifact assemblages and use them in conjunction with other material objects to learn about relative dating.

This program is geared to fifth grade and up and is done either in a classroom setting or in the Old Fort Western Learning Gallery. If done in the learning gallery there will be a brief tour of Fort Western and its environs but only if a two hour or more time block is scheduled.

Scheduling Programs at Old Fort Western

Pre-scheduled Fort programs are offered anytime except during winter shutdown from November 18, 2019 through April 24, 2020. Travel Programs are offered any time except April, May and June. To schedule call 626-2385.

All the programs offered at Old Fort Western have a hands-on component that provides facts, concepts, processes, and procedures.

Location: Fort Western utilizes the 1754 National Historic Landmark “Garrison,” restored parade ground, watch boxes, blockhouses, perimeter palisade, and outlying areas. Different programs take place in different parts of the Fort. Note: Please read the program descriptions carefully; each program utilizes only certain areas of the Fort.

Clothing: The garrison and blockhouses of Fort Western are not climate controlled. Program participants need to dress appropriately for the weather and season. Any child inappropriately dressed (i.e. hoodie & flip-flops in November) will be asked to sit out the program with a chaperone in a heated area or the bus.

TAKE CARE! Our prices changed January 1, 2019
Cost: The charge per student and chaperone for one program is $6.00. The price for schools doing multiple, same day programs is $5.00 per student and chaperone per program. Classroom teachers and one-on-one educational technicians are free of charge. There is a minimum fee for small groups (10 people or fewer), of either $50 (programs requiring one staff) or $80 (programs requiring two or more staff). Payments for Fort programs are due on the presentation day by cash, credit card, or check made out to Old Fort Western Fund.

Group Size: Size depends on the program(s) chosen. Rooms and spaces at the Fort tend to be small so if your group is more than 12 we will request that you divide into evenly-sized sub-groups which will rotate through activity stations. We will let you know how many subgroups you need via e-mail. Occasionally staffing and logistic issues arise necessitating the need to adjust your group numbers upon arrival. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience.

Special Needs Students: Please let us know if you have any special needs students. Since this is an original 1754 structure and most programs utilize both the upstairs and downstairs, it is difficult for wheel-chaired students to gain access to all the stations. If we know in advance and depending on the program, we may be able to move all stations to the ground floor.

Chaperones: Space is limited, every station group requires only to 2 chaperones. PLEASE remind chaperones to not answer questions posed to the students or interrupt the Historic Interpreter; this experience is meant for the children.

Cell Phone and Photography: Chaperones and students need to leave all technology on the bus, i.e. cell phones, I-pads, computers, etc. Only teachers are allowed use of cell phones and can take pictures within the Fort itself. Video recording is prohibited.

Program Duration: Programs are usually 90 minutes to 2 hours long and scheduled based on your school’s needs, program demand and staffing requirements. Once scheduled, however, it is important to be on time as other programs from other schools may be scheduled using some of the same staff and spaces used in your program. If for some reason you are going to be late, please call as soon as possible to let us know. Depending on the other programs scheduled and your time table, we may be able to deliver the program in its entirety; however, if you are more than 15 minutes late and we have other programs scheduled after yours we will proceed as planned and stop at the scheduled time; as a result students may not be able to visit all the stations planned.

Cancellation If you need to cancel for any reason you need to let us know within 24 hours of the program so we can contact our staff. If you do not show and the staff scheduled, set up, and are waiting for you we will have to bill you for the cost of the staff.

Confirmation: The logistical details for all pre-scheduled programs are confirmed in writing by e-mail. Occasionally we can send confirmation by regular mail if necessary.

Gift Shop: A visit to the gift shop requires pre-scheduling and will only be offered after the completion of your program.

Customized Programs: Modified programs are available to meet curriculum needs. Arrangements can be made at the time of booking.
Travel Programs: Many of our programs work well in the classroom. If you would like us to come to you, please call to find which programs work best in the classroom and what the cost involves.

News from Fort Western

Exciting changes are happening here at Fort Western and many more are in the works in preparation for not only Maine’s Bicentennial Celebration in 2020, but also the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the renovation of Fort Western and it becoming a Museum.

We will also host a lectures series in three parts chronicling the history of Maine to commemorate Maine’s Bicentennial. These lectures would be a great way for teachers to receive CEU’s. Please check our website for complete list of lectures and their venues.

For the first time we are offering versions of our programs for adults and they are being advertised through Augusta, MSAD 11 and Mid-Maine Adult Ed; another great way to earn CEU’s.

Thanks!

While visiting Old Fort Western in Augusta,
Why don’t you visit the Maine State Museum, and State Capitol?
Remember The State Museum is closed on Mondays.
To schedule tours, please call 287-2301.