



SKAMANIA
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

-and the-

COLUMBIA
GORGE
INTERPRETIVE
CENTER
MUSEUM

*The living
past is
always
present*

For Teachers

Welcome to the Museum!

We are proud to introduce to you the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum. Located in the middle of the National Scenic Area in Stevenson, Washington, it is ideally situated to interpret the natural and cultural history of this beautiful region. We invite you and your students to explore the Museum designed for all age levels.

The first floor introduces the culture of the first people, the impact of the contact with other cultures, the emigration struggle to the West, early community development, transportation and the harvesting of resources. The grand gallery compares the Native American technique of dip netting for fish with the mechanical device, the fishwheel. Interest in the history of the timber industry is stimulated by the massive Corliss steam engine and a 1921 Mack log truck.

The mezzanine level emphasizes natural history with displays about geology, botany and entomology. Future exhibits will include displays to further the study of Gorge flora and fauna. An exciting explanation of the geological creation of the Gorge is presented in a twelve minute program in the main theatre. The theatre comfortably accommodates 45-60 students.

The second floor galleries tell the stories of real people who have left their impact on communities and concludes with an eight minute DVD program, a light-hearted approach to the past and the future of the Gorge. This theatre seats 24 at a time.

We are positive you will agree that the learning opportunities are endless. The staff is willing to work with your institution to make visits designed around your specific curriculum needs. We can offer, for example, story telling, a fact-finding scavenger hunt, Native American legends or petroglyph rubbings. The intent of the staff is to provide support for the particular subject the students are studying. Suggestions are most welcome. We also offer a traveling trunk program for a nominal fee. This is often requested before a visit as an introduction to the group tour. For more information, email or call the Museum office. The staff will be pleased to answer your questions.

Admission is charged based on six dollars per student. However, admission for teachers, the required number of chaperones, and bus drivers is free making the total cost less than six dollars per person.

NOTE: We require one chaperone per five students; additional adults pay the group rate.

Please allow 1-2 hours to tour the facility. To include an activity, additional time is required.

Call to register a tour anytime between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Our phone numbers are (800) 991-2338 and (509) 427-8211. The Fax number is (509) 427-7429. You can download Teachers Guide here or Contact us by email!

Come experience 15,000 years of history!

P.O. BOX 396
990 SW ROCK
CREEK DRIVE
STEVENSON,
WASHINGTON
98648
(509) 427-8211
FAX:
(509) 427-7429



SCHOOL GROUP ORIENTATION

In order to help you prepare for your visit to the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum, we have provided some guidelines to make your visit more enjoyable for students, teachers, parents, staff and other museum visitors.

Please drive the bus around to the front entrance for unloading. A guide will greet you. The rules for the Museum can be reviewed while the students are still on the bus, or they can be reviewed once the group is in the lobby. These rules should be reviewed with the students and parents prior to the day of the field trip. (See Rules). If you have any special needs, such as a wheelchair, please let the Museum know before the day of your trip so that arrangements can be made. The person in charge should then check in with the admission desk and let them know the total number in the group: teachers, students, chaperones, bus driver and any other individuals. Teachers and bus drivers will not be charged. We require one chaperone per five students and they are not charged. However, if there are more adults or chaperones above the required number, they will pay the group rate. Payment should be made at this time. If you are paying by purchase order, or wished to be billed, make those arrangements when you register the group.

The students will be split into groups of 5-7 with a parent or teacher for each group. Every student should know who is the group leader. Each group leader is responsible for the students in their group, and should be aware of all of the rules of the Museum.

Students who violate the rules will be given one warning. If they break the rule again, or are a consistent problem, we request a chaperone escort them to the lobby and wait with them.

Teachers are encouraged to visit the Museum in advance of the field trip and a complimentary pass will be provided. All the teacher needs to do is request a pass from Admissions. In addition, if the Museum is aware of a special interest, all efforts will be made to emphasize or focus on that particular subject. Some of the special programs have included petroglyph rubbing and Native American legends. All requests must be made in advance with registration since most activities or programs are volunteer driven.

We thank you for choosing the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum for your field trip. We will work with you to make it an enjoyable and rewarding experience for your group. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve service to the educational community, please let us know.

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FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES

1. Students, stay with your group leader. Group leaders, stay with your students. Often the adult chaperones get distracted, so the students need to keep track of them. Don't let your chaperone wonder off and miss any of the exhibits or activities.
2. The Museum staff and volunteers are here to help give direction and assist in the learning experience. The teacher and group leaders are responsible for any discipline and will deal with disruptive or destructive behavior.
3. No food, candy, drink or chewing gum in the exhibit areas. Please use the garbage cans located throughout the building to dispose of any garbage. We know you want to help us keep the building clean.
4. We have a pool of water and a waterfall in the Grand Gallery. It is very important to your health that you do not put your hands or feet in the water. We do not want anyone to slip or fall and be injured. Remember, the Native American dip netter does not grant wishes, so all coins should remain in your pocket, spent in the Museum store, or dropped into a donation jar. Coins tossed into the water feature become so corroded they can no longer be used. Also, be aware that the waterfall cycles on and off automatically and can be startling. It is loud and most often turned off for guided tours.
5. Please keep your voice at a low level. Loud talking or yelling is disruptive to other guests who have also paid to have a pleasant experience. Be courteous.
6. No running at any time.
7. Keep your feet on the floor. There are places where you might be tempted to lean over the railing or to climb. For your own safety, do not climb, do not lean.
8. Please, no touching of artifacts. There are oils on the cleanest of hands which cause accumulated and serious damage. Our goal is to make everything last as long as possible and we request your assistance in helping us be successful.
9. When a teacher, volunteer or group leader raises their hand, it is a signal to be quiet and listen. Respond quickly so you won't miss anything!
10. Enjoy learning. Do not hesitate to ask questions.
11. If the teacher has made arrangements in advance, the Museum will provide a guest pass to each student to take home for their family's use. This is in appreciation of your visit. We look forward to a return visit with a family member.

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FIELD TRIP RESERVATION FORM

Today's Date: _____

Attn: _____

This letter is confirmation of your group scheduling. Please sign & return by mail to P.O. Box 396, Stevenson, WA 98648 or fax to 509-427-7429.

Organization: _____

Tour Date: _____

Time: _____

Group Size: _____

Grade Level: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Scheduled Events\Special Requests:

We are pleased that you have chosen to visit The Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center. To ensure that you have the best visit possible we ask that you agree to the following conditions:

1. In order to qualify for our group rate, there must be 10 paying guests. Bus driver and 1 chaperone per 5 students will be complimentary. Our group rate is \$6.00 per person.
2. The Interpretive Center requests that you schedule one chaperone per five students. We have volunteers who participate with group visits so please let us know in advance if you will need additional chaperones.
3. In the event you have to cancel your tour, please notify us 24 hours in advance. Failure to cancel will result in a \$25.00 no show charge.

The Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center is pleased to accommodate your requests and special needs so if there is something we can do to make your visit more enjoyable please call 1-800-991-2338.

I have read and agree to the conditions as stated above.

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