



2012-13 Teacher Orientation Packet

Welcome to Conner Prairie!

Thank you for choosing Conner Prairie as your educational destination! Your adventure to the past is about to begin! Please look through this document before your visit. It contains the following pre-visit materials designed to help you prepare for your field trip:

- [Teacher Field Trip Checklist](#)
- [Essential Information](#)
- [Links to Important Forms & Materials](#)
- [Experience Area Descriptions](#)
- [Teaching Strategies & Classroom Activity Suggestions](#)

Teacher Field Trip Checklist

Prior to Your Visit:

- ☐ Review the pre-visit information packet.
- ☐ Send home permission slips and notes to parents.
- ☐ Send us your lunch time options, mode of transportation, and planned departure time.
- ☐ Recruit adult chaperones. (One for every 10 students in grades 2 and above. One for every five students in kindergarten through grade 1.)
- ☐ Divide students into groups and assign an adult leader to each group.
- ☐ Make copies of the chaperone two-sided information sheet.
- ☐ Make copies of the map to give to chaperones.
- ☐ Fill out chaperone information sheet with student lists, teacher goals and other information.
- ☐ Create (or have students create) school name tags for each adult and student to wear that have the school name and teacher name on them.
- ☐ Review guidelines and goals with your students.
- ☐ Remind students what to wear for their visit. Conner Prairie operates in all kinds of weather.
- ☐ Arrange payment so it can be made with one check, credit card or purchase order.
- ☐ Visit connerprairie.org for additional information.

On the Morning of Your Visit:

- ☐ Give maps and the information sheet with the list of students to chaperones.
- ☐ Hand out school name tags to everyone.
- ☐ Place lunches in boxes or coolers for easy transportation and storage.
- ☐ Review directions with the bus driver(s).
- ☐ Obtain final counts of students, chaperones, and teaching/school staff.
- ☐ Fill out the check-in form.

Upon Arrival:

- ☐ Instruct everyone to remain on the bus, yourself included, until the school tour coordinator greets you.
- ☐ Provide the final counts of students, chaperones, and teaching/school staff. (On check-in form)
- ☐ Provide the coordinator with your email address so we can email you an evaluation. (On check-in form)

During Your Visit:

- ☐ Bring payment (if not prepaid) and gold attendance sheet (provided by school tour coordinator upon check-in) to the Guest Services Office in the Welcome Center.
- ☐ Explore history!

Essential Information

Lunch & Departure Information Needed

To help us better serve you, please send the following information to ludwig@connerprairie.org or call (317) 776-6000, ext. 277, at least 3 weeks before your visit:

- Your top 2 lunch time choices (10:30, 11:00, 11:30, noon, 12:30 or 1:00). If you prefer a time different from these, please let us know that, too.
- Your planned departure time from Conner Prairie.
- Whether you will be traveling by bus, van, or car.
- Whether you plan on visiting our gift shop or eating at the Café on the Common.

School Name Tags Required

All adults and students are required to wear a school name tag with the school name and teacher name on it. (Student names are not required.) These name tags can be as simple as a sticker with the school and teacher names written or printed on it. You might consider having the students decorate their school name tags with the field trip theme or school mascot. It will expedite check-in if everyone is wearing their school name tag when you arrive at Conner Prairie.

Fees/Payments

Tours may be prepaid or paid on the date of your visit. Payments may be made at Guest Services anytime during your visit. Payment in one transaction with check, credit card or purchase order is required. Please make checks payable to Conner Prairie. Please refer to the confirmation form and cover letter we sent you for specific fee/payment information.

Arrival/Check-in Information

Upon arrival at Conner Prairie, make your first right and follow the drive to the School Check-in location which is marked by a large yellow School Tour banner. Pull up along the curb near the School Tour banner and remain on the bus until greeted by a school tour coordinator. The coordinator will provide a brief overview of Conner Prairie and answer questions.

Give the coordinator the check-in form listing a final count of students, adult chaperones, and teaching/school staff. These numbers are used to calculate the final payment due, so only include adult chaperones you are including in your payment. Please do not include adults who are paying individually at the ticket desk. PLEASE NOTE: Any adult (except Conner Prairie members) who pays individually at the ticket desk will be charged regular general admission which for the 2012 season is \$14/person.

The coordinator will give you a gold attendance sheet. At some point during your visit, please bring this sheet and your payment (if not pre-paid) to Guest Services near the Ticket Desk in the Welcome Center. Guest Services staff will process the payment and can provide refunds in the event of overpayment. They can also book your visit for next year. (In order to speed up the check-in process, the coordinator who checks you in does not handle payments or refunds.)

Behavior Guidelines

Please encourage chaperones to be actively involved in the supervision of students. We need their (and your) active participation to ensure students are acting in a respectful and safe manner and to enhance student learning. Please emphasize the following behavior guidelines to your students and chaperones:

- Students of all ages, grade K-12, must be accompanied by a teacher or chaperone at all times. Students should not run ahead or go exploring on their own.
- School groups should not begin activities involving animals, tools, or fire until directed to do so by a Conner Prairie staff person.
- Be kind to our animals. Do not tease or chase them. Please do not feed them.

What to Wear

Conner Prairie operates in all kinds of weather, so everyone should dress for the weather. Comfortable shoes are important. Remember sun protection – bring sunscreen and brimmed hats. On rainy days use the opportunity to discuss how weather could affect such things as fire building and traveling.

Accessibility

Conner Prairie strives to provide an educational and fun experience for guests of all abilities. If your group has anyone with special needs, please contact Guest Services for guidance on planning your visit.

First Aid/Lost Child/Weather Warnings

Conner Prairie staff can communicate via two-way radio or phone. We have a first aid responder on site during regular open hours. If there is a first aid need or a lost child, notify any Conner Prairie staff person. We do keep track of weather conditions. In the event of a severe weather warning, staff will be instructed to advise our guests on where to seek shelter.

Photography

Still or video photography is welcomed at Conner Prairie for personal, non-commercial use only. No tripods, please. **During your visit, you may be photographed for promotional purposes by Conner Prairie staff. If you do not wish to be photographed, please request a special sticker during check-in or at the Welcome Center Ticket Desk.**

Standards

Conner Prairie experiences relate to Indiana academic standards for all grade levels and multiple subject areas. Some standards covered include **Social Studies** K.1.1, 1.1.1, 2.1.2, 3.1.6, 3.1.8, 4.1.2, 4.1.6, 4.1.7, 4.1.8, 5.3.11, 6.1.21, 7.4.2, 8.1.21, 8.1.28, WG.4.3, USH.1.2; **Science** K.1.1, K.3.2, 1.3.3, 1.4.1, 2.3.2, 3.2.6, 4.2.6, 4.4.1, 6.1.7, 7.1.2, 8.2.6, 8.3.10; **Language Arts** K.7.1, 1.7.3, 2.7.4, 3.7.1, 3.7.15, 4.7.1, 4.7.16, 5.7.1, 6.7.2, 7.7.1, 8.7.8, 11.7.12; **Physical Education** K.1.3, 1.1.3, 2.1.3, 3.1.1, 4.1.1, 4.1.4, 4.5.1, 4.6.3, 5.6.2, 7.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.5.1, 8.6.2.

Online Videos

An orientation video and a video about William Conner are both available on our website under the Teachers tab. Note: *An updated orientation video that includes our newest experience, 1863 Civil War Journey: Raid on Indiana, is currently in the works. Until we get that completed, please enjoy the posted video AND visit civilwar.connerprairie.org to learn more about Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's raid on the southern town of Dupont, IN.*

Directions

Conner Prairie is located six miles northeast of Indianapolis at 13400 Allisonville Road. It is also six miles from I-69, exit 5.

After turning into the Conner Prairie entrance, make your first right and drive to the School Tour Check-in location marked by a yellow School Tour banner. Please have everyone remain on the bus until a school tour coordinator greets you. After the coordinator provides a brief orientation and the bus is unloaded, the coordinator can provide instructions on where to park your vehicle(s). Bus drivers are welcome to enter free of charge.

For More Information

If you have any questions about your visit, please do not hesitate to contact us at 317.776.6006 or 800.966.1836. Pre-visit materials for our experience areas are available on our website, www.connerprairie.org.

Important Forms & Materials

These [forms & materials](#) can also be found in separate listings on our website under the Teachers tab:

- **Check-in form**

Please fill out this form before you arrive so you can quickly report student and adult attendance numbers.

- **Information sheet for chaperones (two-sided)**

Use this sheet to supply chaperones with needed information including the names of the students in their group and your cell phone number.

- **Conner Prairie map**

Print out and copy this map for teacher and chaperone use.

Experience Area Descriptions

Conner Prairie is comprised of 5 experience areas, all of which include hands-on activities for students. You may want to focus your field trip on one or two areas for the best educational experience. Please allow at least three hours for your visit.

1836 Prairietown

Step back in time to Prairietown, a village working to become a thriving community in 1836. Meet the townspeople, who are played by Conner Prairie's trained staff. Take a lesson in the schoolhouse, help with chores, load or unload a wagon, watch craftsmen ply their trades and more! There is so much for your students to see and do! Through these activities, students can compare past and present, learn about the processes that go into the various trades, discover the economics of the time, and explore everyday life. The residents of this fictional-yet-historically-accurate town are eager for new neighbors to help the community grow, so they are excited to meet you to see what skills you could contribute.

New for this year are achievement cards and adventure guides that can provide more structure to your visit if you so desire. For more information or to get started on using these materials, check out the Prairietown listing under the Teachers tab on our website.

Conner Homestead

This area is anchored by the Conner House, built by William Conner in 1823 on this site and later preserved by Eli Lilly. You can tour the first floor and find out more about Conner and the influence he had here. Next door is our Loom House where you can learn about textile processes such as weaving, spinning and dyeing. Nearby is our Animal Encounters Barn where you can interact with baby and adult farm animals. Next to Animal Encounters is the candle-making station where your students can practice dipping candles.

Lenape Camp

Discover the history and culture of the Lenape or Delaware Indians at Lenape Indian Camp. Talk to the fur trader in the Trading Post, explore the wigwams, sit inside a log canoe, and try activities related to their life here in Indiana in the early 1800s. You can also enjoy frontier tales and learn some Lenape words.

1863 Civil War Journey: Raid on Indiana

Experience our newest immersive, outdoor learning adventure which tells the story of Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's raid into Indiana. Feel the patriotism, excitement and concerns of the citizens and volunteer militia firsthand through this multi-media experience. Explore the raided town of Dupont, IN, and meet our staff portraying people who experienced Morgan's Raid. This area includes two audiovisual presentations that showcase the raid (**recommended for grades 4 and up**). These shows are ongoing, but have limited capacities. Younger students (**grades 3 and under**) can explore our River Crossing play area.

1859 Balloon Voyage

Just outside the Welcome Center is the flight school that highlights the 1859 balloon voyage of aeronautical pioneer John Wise and reveals the stories behind balloon flight in the 1800's. In addition to touring this area, those booking our self-guided tour can purchase a flight in our tethered, helium-filled balloon for the greatly reduced price of \$3 per person. The flight takes you 350 feet up above the ground for a bird's-eye view of Conner Prairie and surrounding areas! NOTE: Flights are weather dependent. Because waivers and parental permission are required, balloon flights must be arranged BEFORE the day of your visit. See connerprairie.org for more details.

Welcome Center including Science Lab

In addition to the outdoor areas, we have special science and craft activities inside the Welcome Center. The Conner Prairie Store and Guest Services Office are also located in this building.

Teaching Strategies & Classroom Activity Suggestions

Conner Prairie is an outdoor interactive history park offering a variety of hands-on activities. Point out to your students that during your visit, they will be talking to both costumed and non-costumed staff. Usually, staff dressed in historic clothing are portraying characters in the past. They share their stories with you and stay in character. Their characters' knowledge of history stops with the year they are portraying. On the other hand, the staff wearing modern blue shirts or jackets and name tags can compare past and present.

For students ages 3–8: Relate today's life to what you see on your visit.

- Compare the students' clothing to the costumed facilitators' clothing.
- Visit Whitaker's Store and compare this building to a store with which the children are familiar.
- At the Golden Eagle Inn, compare the building and amenities with a hotel.
- Visit posts such as the blacksmith, potter or carpenter. Discuss their roles in the community. What are they making? What services do they provide to others?

For students ages 9 and older: Put the past into perspective.

- Ask the villagers about their past experiences of migrating to Indiana and their hope for the future.
- While touring the historic areas, remind students to think of the vast changes since the early nineteenth century. Inventions such as the sewing machine, automobile, electric light bulb, telephone, and computer have revolutionized the country and the world.
- Visit the Conner House to learn about William Conner's role in local history.

Classroom Activities

Let students help plan the field trip to Conner Prairie. Have students work in groups to identify what they would like to see and learn during their visit. Then have students prepare an itinerary for the visit complete with travel times, most important areas to visit, and lunch schedule.

- Plan a day at your school set in the early to mid-nineteenth century. Do not use electricity or modern conveniences. Use slates and chalk to write. Have students bring lunches that don't need refrigeration and play period games at recess. Then have the students write about their experience.
- Prepare a trip back in time to 1836. Have the students pick five items they would take with them. As you visit Conner Prairie, ask the residents what they brought with them.
- Plan exercises using the Conner Prairie map, which can be found at connerprairie.org. List who lives next door to certain characters; note what direction one place is from another; trace the path from one building to another; circle the buildings where residents would find food, lodging, animals, etc.
- Organize a settlement in 1830s Indiana. Consider location, where you will get food and water, what supplies are needed, division of labor, etc.
- Have students write an article for the school newspaper or publish a newsletter about their field trip experiences. Encourage students to interview each other and take pictures during the trip.
- Imagine you were a traveler through Indiana in 1836 and stayed in Prairietown for a few days. Write a letter to family and friends back East about your experiences in the village. Students may also create a multimedia presentation that includes photos that describes their experience.
- For each of the five senses, list one memory of the trip to Conner Prairie.
- Have students choose five objects from their everyday lives. During your trip to Conner Prairie, have the students locate and take a photo of 5 corresponding objects from the 1800's.
- Using connerprairie.org, as well as other websites for information resources, have students prepare tables comparing and contrasting various aspects of 19th-century life with today. Possible topics: cooking/food preparation, textiles/clothing, school, storekeeping, trades/crafts, food, transportation, games/toys, communication.