

Planning Your School Visit

Thank you for making arrangements to visit Fort Ticonderoga with your students. As one of this country's oldest restored historic sites, Fort Ticonderoga has lots to offer you and your students. We hope your students will capture the excitement of touring the Fort where so many important events happened in both the Seven Years' War (French & Indian War) and the American Revolution.

Arrival

When you arrive at Fort Ticonderoga, please keep your students on board the bus until a staff member or volunteer from the Fort is able to board the bus. For groups arriving by car or van, we ask that the students gather in a group on the "glacis" (the grassy slope between the parking lot and the Fort). The staff member or volunteer will meet your group there. Occasionally, because of travel delays, more buses arrive at the same time than there are people to meet them. Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation.

The person in charge of the group needs to enter the Log House and go to Admissions. It speeds the arrival procedure if you have an exact count of students, teachers, and chaperones. We appreciate payment by credit card, check, or large bills whenever possible. Payment with change and one-dollar bills slows down entry for you and those behind you. Checks should be made out to "Fort Ticonderoga." Either the cashier at Admissions or the person who meets your group will have admission stickers for each person in your group. These stickers provide access into the Fort.

Student groups receive a significant discount on admission to Fort Ticonderoga. Admission rates for students are \$5 per student. Each school group is entitled to one chaperone or teacher for every five students at no charge. Additional chaperones are charged the adult group rate of \$10 per chaperone. For groups participating in a special on-site program, admission is \$7 per student (one free teacher or chaperone for every five students; additional chaperones are charged the adult group rate of \$10 per chaperone).

Backpacks are not permitted beyond Admissions. Please have students leave them on the bus or in the car. In addition, there is no smoking, eating, or drinking beyond Admissions. Your assistance in protecting the museum collection is appreciated.

An Introduction to the Fort

A staff member or volunteer will give your group a brief overview of the history of Fort Ticonderoga and lead them into the Fort. If there is an aspect of the Fort's history you would like emphasized, please let us know in advance. You can contact Nancy LaVallie, the Group Tour Coordinator, to make your request at (518) 585-2821 or email: nancy@fort-ticonderoga.org.

Exploring Fort Ticonderoga

Following your introduction, students are free to explore the Fort with their chaperones. Nametags for everyone in your group help Fort staff, but also help chaperones and students as they get to know each other during their Fort visit.

Fort Ticonderoga continues to add resources for teachers and students to its website. Visit www.fort-ticonderoga.org, and click on “Education.” Then click on “Student Visits.” Resources can be found under “Resources for your visit.”

Weather permitting, there are daily musket loading and firing demonstrations. The times of these demonstrations are listed in “Today at Fort Ticonderoga,” available at Admissions.

The Enlisted Men’s Barracks and Officers’ Barracks contain museum exhibits of the Fort’s renowned collection of artifacts and paintings relating to the Fort’s 18th- and 19th-century history. The best place to start is up the stairs labeled “Museum” and then in the room to the left. A chronological exhibit of the Fort’s history fills this room. It starts with the Native American inhabitants of the Ticonderoga peninsula and concludes with the restoration of the Fort, which began in 1909. Museum Interpreters are stationed throughout the museum exhibits and can answer questions for your students. In 2009, the exhibition gallery in the lower level of the Deborah Clarke Mars Education Center features the exhibit “The Face of War: Triumph and Tragedy at Fort Ticonderoga, 1758 & 1759.”

If you would like help in customizing your visit to meet your curricular needs, please feel free to call Richard Strum, Director of Interpretation & Education, at 518-585-6370, or email at rstrum@fort-ticonderoga.org. Email is best from mid April until late October.

Protecting the Fort and its Artifacts

Please take a moment to discuss the importance of preserving Fort Ticonderoga and its artifacts with your students. All visitors must stay behind barriers and walls. Please stress that students (and chaperones) should not touch artifacts on display in the Museum. The oils on human skin can cause artifacts to deteriorate—even items made of wood and metal. Paintings are especially fragile—please look but don’t touch.

Safety

For their own safety, please keep students (and adults) off the walls of the Fort, as well as off the cannon and their carriages. In addition, black powder (an explosive) is in use during musket demonstrations. It is important that all our visitors follow the announced safety rules during the demonstrations. Fort Ticonderoga is a smoke-free environment.

Food

The Log House Restaurant is very busy during much of the year. *There is limited seating for those groups purchasing meals.* Groups planning to purchase lunch at the

Restaurant need to let us know in advance, so that the Restaurant staff can be ready for them. All food is cooked to order. Box lunches can be ordered in advance.

Student groups *cannot* eat bag lunches in the Restaurant. We need to reserve seating in the Restaurant for customers purchasing lunch at the restaurant. A picnic area is provided to the west of the parking lot. In the event of inclement weather, bag lunches will need to be eaten on the bus or in cars. Fort Ticonderoga is a “carry in, carry out” facility. Please plan to bring garbage bags to take your trash back to school for disposal.

No food or beverages are permitted past Admissions. We appreciate your help in preserving the Museum’s collections.

Museum Store

The Fort Ticonderoga Museum Store features souvenirs and books of interest to students and teachers alike. We ask that chaperones and their students visit the Store together.

Teachers who are members of the Friends of Fort Ticonderoga receive a 10% discount in the Museum Store. For more information about memberships, call Vicki Sperry at (518) 585-2821.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the lower level of the Log House. Accessible restrooms are available on the west end of the Log House and are entered from the outside. Additional accessible restrooms are available in the Deborah Clarke Mars Education Center.