

Chapel Hill Museum

An Education Venue for Student Learning

Chapel Hill Museum's Education Committee has operated strong, creative education programs for interactive student learning since 1999. These programs are utilized by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School District, home schooling collectives, and the public and private schools of Orange, Chatham and Durham Counties. All of the Museum's education programs are developed, implemented and maintained by volunteers. The Education Committee is made up of seasoned professional educators spanning the elementary grade level through university professorships.

In 2005 the Education Committee was awarded *Governor Easley's Outstanding Volunteers Service Award* in recognition of the years of hard work, exceptional efforts and successful programs that have benefitted thousands of children. All of the Museum's education programs meet state-mandated curricular requirements for area educators. **All of the Museum's programs are provided free of charge.**

Four programs make up the core of the Museum's annual field trip offerings:



Fire Safety Education Program and *Johnnie Joins the Fire Department: A musical puppet show*

The Chapel Hill Museum has successfully operated an eight week fire safety education program annually since 2000. This program meets the state of North Carolina's curricular requirement of teaching area second graders fire safety by emphasizing firefighters as community helpers. By utilizing the Museum's *Heroes of Yesterday, Heroes of Today: The History of the Chapel Hill Fire Department* exhibit and the Town of Chapel Hill's 1914 fire truck, the contrast between CHFD's inception in 1896 and the lives of present day firefighters is illustrated.

- More than 7,000 students have received essential fire safety education since 2000
- 900 students have experienced this musical puppet show since its debut in the fall of 2008
- All local schools, surrounding charter and private schools, home schooled collectives, and county schools have been served by the Museum's Education Committee
- This program meets and fulfills multiple state mandated curricular requirements for NC educators
- North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center at UNC Hospitals has determined this program to be outstanding and is the program's lead sponsor
- With proper funding this program can travel and reach more critical segments of population
- This program is currently being performed at the Chapel Hill Museum to visiting schools and community groups year round. Additionally, it is traveling to family-friendly public venues



- This program was developed and is operated by an all-volunteer staff of Education Committee members and personnel from the Chapel Hill Fire Department. The musical puppet show uses the dramatic arts for the presentation, explanation and repetition of life-saving fire safety rules. Special emphasis is made throughout the program to encourage families to make and practice a home fire escape plan. At the end of the program students interact with a firefighter who demonstrates his or her turnout gear, air mask, tank and tools-this segment reinforces the message that despite the frightening appearance of a firefighter in full gear, children should never hide in the event of a fire.



Lost Colony: This fourth grade history program is based on the work of author Paul Green and the Lost Colony. This program answers the need of area educators to fulfill curriculum goals on the history of North Carolina. The program presents the narrative of early state history in conjunction with Green's work as a humanitarian and social activist. At the fieldtrip's end, students perform an abbreviated and fully costumed rendition of Green's play,

the *Lost Colony*.

Meet Me on Franklin Street: Celebrating the Character and Characters of Chapel Hill: This program answers third-grade curriculum requirements by focusing on teaching area students about the history of their immediate community. Historically significant community leaders are featured in student -portrayed dramatic presentations. This program is adaptable to being used as an independent study project for home schooled students.

North Carolina Pottery and History of Pottery: Developed for the eighth grade, this program utilizes the Museum's 300 - piece pottery collection to interpret culture and lives of North Carolinians from the mid-1800s through present day. This program is aligned with the eighth grade course presentation on life in North Carolina during the early part of the 20th century and satisfies the State's history curriculum goals.



It is the mission of the Museum's Education Committee to present programs that develop critical thinking and encourage the learning process as a joyful lifelong pursuit. Whether teaching about the history of the state, the lives and times of community leaders, or more immediate tangibles as in the case of the Museum's Fire Safety program, all of the program's goals include a focus on critical thinking. Additionally, students experience education outside of their schools and classroom. In doing so, students come to view their community as kinetic, engaging and interactive environments wherein the opportunities for growing and developing are ever present.

The federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) promotes educational opportunities in Museums by stating that *“young people need more than schools can offer and Museums help fill the gaps through complementary leadership, rich resources and effective programs. Museums bring unique assets to youth development. They include a dedicated, knowledgeable staff, authentic objects and artifacts and personalized hands-on learning to help make learning fun and rewarding.”*

The Chapel Hill Museum's education programs guide students in discovering the connections between lifestyles in historical times and their culture and lifestyles in the present. By demonstrating the concept of art and history's inextricable linking, and by providing learning centers that engage the participants on many levels - including the visual, auditory, tactile, cognitive and affective—the Committee's mission is achieved.



More than 3,500 students per year are served by the Museum's Education Committee's programs.



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