



Civil War School Days, May 5th – May 8th, 2026

Welcome to Midway Village Museum's 2026 Civil War School Days! We are excited to host you. This packet contains all essential information you need prior to your visit. We ask that you read all information to best prepare for your experience. This information is subject to change and details of the day may be different than what is specifically noted here.

A separate, "Civil War Activity Packet" has creative ideas on how to extend the lessons within your classroom, along with resources to help you customize your learning experience. We look forward to seeing you and your students and thank you for continued support of Midway Village Museum!

Pre-Visit Instructions:

After we assign headliners, Midway Village Staff will send you an email containing a link to our **Google Drive. This drive is specific to each day, and contains:**

- A sign with your school's name to put in the bus window. This helps us get you checked in as quickly as possible.
- Your designated Headliner appointment time.
- A copy of the map with activity locations. Please note, these maps are subject to change.
 - We will only print a limited number of maps each day, so **we encourage you and your chaperones to use the Google link on the day of your visit.**
- A detailed list of stations' activities throughout the village.

Arrival Instructions:

- Please arrive via Entrance 1 at our main parking lot. Be sure the sign with your school's name is in the front window so our staff can identify your group.
- Pay attention to parking staff who will guide your bus to the appropriate spot for student drop off. Please do not exit the bus until directed by staff!
- After stopping at the drop off zone, a staff member will greet you. They will hand you a packet with your chaperone stickers and instruct you when to unload your bus.
 - Once off the bus, **please remain off the parking lot pavement to ensure safety!**
- After unloading, parking staff will instruct bus drivers to their designated parking spots.
- **Each adult chaperone needs to have a sticker.** Please check beforehand if your school has paid for the chaperones. If not, adult chaperones must pay for their entry at the tent where they will then receive their sticker.



Midway Village Museum

Rockford's
HISTORY MUSEUM

- Midway Village Museum is closed to the public during this event. Ensuring that each adult chaperone has a sticker confirms that they are supposed to be there.
- Cash, charge, or check are all accepted forms of payment.
- Bus drivers are encouraged to visit the Museum Center's front desk OR registration tent to receive a complimentary sticker to enjoy the day's event.

School Chaperones Arriving by Vehicle:

Please use Entrance 1 at our main parking lot. Follow instructions from our parking staff who will guide you to an open spot suitable for vehicles. Please cross the parking lot via the sidewalk or grass to keep the parking lot clear for traffic!

For Homeschool Groups Only:

- Please arrive via Entrance 2 at the Guilford Bike Path. Follow signs directing you to our designated parking area near Gate D (on left).
- There will be a check-in tent right outside Gate D.
- At check-in, the first adult with the homeschool group will receive packets with stickers for all the chaperones in the group. **Each adult chaperone needs to have a sticker.** If not paid for beforehand, adult chaperones & additional students must pay for their entry at the check-in tent where they will then receive their sticker.
- After check-in, Midway staff will direct the group to the appropriate village gate.

Overview of Your Day & Guidelines:

- Once off the bus, a staff member will let you into the village at the appropriate time.
- The Millhouse and surrounding Severin Lake are OFF LIMITS to students.
- For safety, there will be NO climbing of trees or structures – including, but not limited to: the Museum Center, Millhouse, and Red Barn areas.
- Our property is home to many kinds of animals during the year. Animals should be respected at all times. DO NOT feed, touch, tease, frighten or disturb wildlife.
- **Students should be broken into groups of 10-20 with 1 chaperone for every 10 students.**
- **Stations are 15 minutes each, with an additional 5 minute “passing period” for travel.**

The beginning and end of each interval will be designated by the School House and Church bells. An outline of our basic rotation schedule – which does not include the assignments for your scheduled headliner presentation – is included in the back of this packet. Please keep your groups within the time ranges to ensure the best experience for all!



- The map will be your guide throughout the village—it provides all the locations for all the activities available. **Ideally, each village station would have approx. 10-20 students at a time (except headliners).** Once the bells ring, please make your way to your next station.
- **A note about Station etiquette:**
 - Do not start near the gate--go further out in the beginning, there will be fewer people.
 - **If a door is closed, do not open it!** The presenter or assistant will open it when they are ready for a new group.
 - If it looks like a program has already started and is full, please either wait for the next one, or find something that is empty.
- The cannon will fire 3x during the day: once at 9am to designate the beginning of the event, once at 11:15am to indicate lunch time, and once at 2pm to designate the end of the event.
- **Lunch is 45 minutes: 11:15am – 12pm.** Programming stops at this time for everyone to eat. Either keep your lunches on the bus (if the driver says that is okay) or find a nice tree or picnic table to leave them while you tour. Pop and snacks are available for purchase. If it is raining, students are to eat on their bus.
- Please arrive on time at the correct location for your headliner's performance. We do not want to disturb others scheduled at the same time.
- We will have an EMT located behind the hospital, as well as trained staff in case of emergencies or lost children.
- The Law Office is our Information Desk and Lost & Found. This building also has restrooms and a fountain to fill water bottles.
- There is a quiet room available in the main museum center if needed.
- **This event is rain or shine, please encourage students and chaperones to dress accordingly.**

If you have any questions, concerns, or additional comments please reach out to our Museum Educator at 815-397-9112, ext. 106 or at educator@midwayvillage.com.

We look forward to seeing you and your students for this exciting, hands-on living history event!



Frequently Asked Questions

Does the Village represent a particular place and time during the Civil War?

No. Reenactments have a specific time and place. Our Living History Day is more general, with reenactors or Living Historians represent a specific character, person, or representation in a very generic setting.

Will there be a battle?

No. Our goal is to present an education program which focuses on what everyday life was like for someone living during the period.

Is the gift shop open?

Yes. In our gift shop we sell a variety of dollar candies, small toys, and sodas. If you would like to spend some of your time in our gift shop, you are welcome to. We will also have concession tents onsite with light snacks and drinks.

Can we buy lunch onsite?

No. Please have all visitors bring their own lunches. We will only have snacks and drinks for sale.

Do you have water onsite?

We have a water fountain and bottle filling station located near the Men's Restrooms at the Law Office. Adjacent to the Law Office (under the windmill), we also have our potable, community pump well. Additionally, there is a water fountain in the Main Museum Center lobby.



Daily Schedule

Station Rotations	Headliner Presentations
9:00-9:15	
9:20-9:35	9:30-9:55
9:40-9:55	
10:00-10:15	10:10-10:35
10:20-10:35	
10:40-10:55	10:50-11:15
11:00-11:15	
11:15-12:00	LUNCH
12:05-12:20	12:15-12:40
12:25-12:40	
12:45-1:00	12:55-1:20
1:05-1:20	
1:25-1:40	1:35-2:00
1:45-2:00	