

# Frontier Army Museum Field Trip Information Packet

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## Contact:

Frontier Army Museum

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Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027

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**Website:** <https://history.army.mil/museums/TRADOC/frontier-army-museum/index.html>

**Online tour:** <https://frontierarmymuseum.oncell.com>

**Hours:** Museum is open to the public

Tuesday-Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm;

Saturdays 10:00am - 4:00pm.

Tours available Tuesday-Friday



## About the museum

The Frontier Army Museum holds almost 6500 objects in public trust. These objects are used to highlight the Frontier Army from the Exploration Expedition of Captain Lewis & Captain Clark to the Mexican Expedition to Capture Poncho Villa. The Museum also holds artifacts related to the history of Fort Leavenworth from its establishment in 1827 to modern day.

**Brochure:** <https://history.army.mil/museums/TRADOC/frontier-army-museum/docs/frontier-army-museum-brochure-2021.pdf>



## Field Trip Options

1. *Self-guided.* The museum is free to all guests and is designed to be self-guided. History Hunts based on grade level are available for free, we ask that you bring your own copies with you. Pencils and clipboards are available on request.
  - a. Please visit our website to download the hunts:  
<https://history.army.mil/museums/TRADOC/frontier-army-museum/index.html#Visit>
2. *Guided staff tour.* Staff led tours are available when scheduled ahead of time. Tours range from 30 minutes to 1 hour, depending on time restraints. General tours feature Fort Leavenworth history and a highlighted tour of the galleries and artifacts. Tours can be focused on specific topics if arranged ahead of time.
3. *Staff-led programming.* Programming is available for field trips based on age groups. A sample of programming include:
  1. **Pack Your Wagon** – 25 minutes, K-high school. Difficulty level can be altered based on program attendees (Max 25 students).
    - i. Learn about the history of the Oregon Trail through an interactive activity. For this program teams “pack” their wagon for a trip to Oregon in the 1840s.
      1. Younger students choose several things to bring and discuss why they chose those options. Critical thinking and teamwork skills are utilized.
      2. Older students are given a weight limit and must choose based on packing weight. We discuss why they chose what they picked and why. Math, teamwork, and critical thinking skills are utilized.
    - ii. An educational video on the Oregon Trail is available for viewing in the theater before or after the program.
    - iii. Artifacts related to wagons and transportation during the time period can be displayed for the duration of the activity by request.

2. **The Lewis and Clark Expedition: Through Their Dog Seaman's Eyes**, 30 mins, max 15 students. Aimed at K-5.
  - i. Kids will learn about the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Seaman, the Newfoundland Dog that accompanied the group on the trip. Using their senses, students will explore the West and learn how animals, like Seaman, see the world differently.
  - ii. Hands-on activity. Students will draw, touch, smell, listen, and think their way through the Corps of Discovery mission.
  
3. **Brief History of Army Nutrition** – Elementary-Middle school (30mins – 1 hour), max 15 students
  - i. Lesson on army nutrition and rations history. Students will see and touch a modern day ration. Activity includes designing the future of army rations.
  - ii. Artifacts from collection will be placed on table for viewing related to rations (ration bags, mess pans, camp pot etc.) by request.
  - iii. Online version of activity: [https://history.army.mil/museums/TRADOC/frontier-army-museum/docs/army-rations/Brief-History-of-US-Army-rations\\_Frontier-Army-Museum.pdf](https://history.army.mil/museums/TRADOC/frontier-army-museum/docs/army-rations/Brief-History-of-US-Army-rations_Frontier-Army-Museum.pdf) (Scientific lesson can be done in classroom before or after the field trip)
  
4. **Painting the History of the Frontier - Eric Bransby**, geared toward middle and high school (45mins, 15 students max)
  - i. Hands-on activity and discussion about history and interpretation of art.
  - ii. Online activity: <https://history.army.mil/museums/TRADOC/frontier-army-museum/docs/Painting-History-of-the-Frontier-Program/Painting-History-of-the-Frontier-Program.pdf>
  - iii. Using the paintings in the Fort Leavenworth gallery, discuss history of Fort Leavenworth and how to interpret art. Students will create their own art.

Additional programming can be created with prior arrangement.

## Visitor Control

For guests off-post you are welcome to visit the museum and Fort Leavenworth. Guests 16 and older will need a daily visitor pass from the Visitor Control Center (1 Sherman Ave, Fort Leavenworth). If a large group is visiting, the daily pass applications can be submitted ahead of time. Please call the Visitor Control Center at (913) 684-3600 for more information. Guests with a DoD, active military, or Veteran ID card do not need a daily pass.

Instructions: <https://home.army.mil/leavenworth/index.php/my-fort/all-services/gate-information>

Visitor Control center website: <https://home.army.mil/leavenworth/index.php/about/visitor-information>

*Sponsor option:* A person with a DoD ID or active military card may sponsor the group if they are all in one vehicle (bus, van). Another option is to have a Public Affairs Officer sponsor the trip. You may contact PAO at (913) 684-1718 for scheduling. The PAO will travel with the field trip throughout the duration of the trip.

## Directions to the museum

Enter Fort Leavenworth through the Grant Gate at the intersection of Metropolitan and 7th Street. Continue north on Grant Avenue to Reynolds Avenue. Turn right, the museum is on the left. Park in the circle drive. For buses there is a large parking lot across the street.

## Lunch options

The Frontier Army Museum does not have an interior space to host lunch for Field Trips. However, outside of the museum there are picnic tables as well as a small playground. The post also have various playgrounds available for outdoor play.

## Historical points around Fort Leavenworth

Fort Leavenworth is an active military post with a long, rich history. Please feel free to continue your trip and visit some of the historical places on post. The Wayside Tour is available online and works with an audio tour to enhance your experience. All of these locations are easily accessible by vehicle. Audio tour: (913) 745-3222.

Wayside tour: <https://history.army.mil/museums/TRADOC/frontier-army-museum/docs/Wayside-Tour-with-additions.pdf>

Fort Leavenworth is home to the Buffalo Soldier Monument as well as the Circle of Firsts statue garden honoring Black military members who broke barriers. To enhance the experience please try the analyzing a Monument activity:

<https://history.army.mil/museums/TRADOC/frontier-army-museum/docs/Analyzing-a-Monument-The-Buffalo-Soldier-Monument.pdf>

Information about the Monument and the Circle of Firsts:

<https://home.army.mil/leavenworth/index.php/about/visitor-information/attractions/buffalo-soldier-commemorative-area>

