Fort Christmas Historical Park Field Trip Proposal for Lyman High School

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Fort Christmas Historical Park, located in Christmas, Florida, provides an interactive educational experience for students currently enrolled in American History courses, both regular and Advanced Placement. The park covers a timeline ranging from the Second Seminole Indian War to the 1950s, with the greatest coverage being the period from Reconstruction to World War I (Orange County Parks & Recreation, 2013). Students will participate in period-specific activities as well as engage in teacher-led and self-guided tours of the park. It may also be possible to arrange access to the archival collection in the Reta Canada Barnes Boney Research Library housed within the park. Overall, Fort Christmas Historical Park will offer students a look at local Florida history while also providing a window into greater U.S. historical trends and allow students the opportunity to make the connections between local, regional, national, and international history.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the field trip is to give students a first-hand taste of life on a pioneer farm in central Florida. To that end, students will participate in the Pioneer Farming module offered by Fort Christmas Historical Park. The activities include insights into subsistence and economic roles as well as available construction, tools, and manufactured goods. Students will examine gender roles as well as the impact of geography on daily life. Such first-hand experiences allow students to better internalize the actual time, skill, and necessity required by various activities as well as the impact of the land on the pioneers as well as the changes the pioneers made on the land. Viewing the evolution of the homestead through Fort Christmas’ collection of historical buildings will also enable the students to make their own conclusions about the changing economic place of central Florida as well as the impact of technology on daily life. Access to the archival collection will provide an opportunity to explain primary document research first hand.

**Florida Standards Integration**

The field trip to the Fort Christmas Historical Park will fulfill many of Florida’s Social Studies Standards for grades 9-12. This includes the use of primary and secondary source research, the evolution of the American economic, social, and political conditions during the period of the Industrial Revolution, and the concepts and connections of a market economy on local, national and international levels. In addition, the topics covered at For Christmas also involve all six of the Geography strand standards in an integrated way that is useful in helping the students understand the interconnectedness of history, geography, and economics as well as central Florida’s role in 19th and 20th century America.

**Itinerary**

7:50 am – Departure from Lyman High School

8:50 am – Arrival at Fort Christmas Historical Park

9 – 10:30 am - Scheduled Pioneer Farming hands-on activity

10:45 – 11:45 am – Student Self-Guided Tour activity and Teacher-led Tour activity – alternate with 25 minutes for each and 10 minute change-over

11:50 am – 12:20 pm – Lunch (this will be bagged from home; seating is provided in park pavilions or at park picnic tables)

12:30 pm – Departure from Fort Christmas Historical Park

1:30 pm – Arrival at Lyman High School

**Cost**

Total Cost: $535 for 40 students, 1 bus driver, 1 teacher, 3 parent chaperones, 1 substitute

Per Student Cost: $14 per student with a total of 40 students allowed or $17 per student if only 30 students participate

Breakdown of Costs: $120 for Fort Christmas Pioneer Farming Activity Fee at $3 per student times 40 students (Orange County Parks & Recreation, n.d.)

$330 for one school bus [(61 miles x $1.25 per mile) + (6.5 hours x $38.65 per hour)], seats 44 plus the driver so only 1 bus required if maximum student attendance of 40 is reached (Seminole County Public Schools, 2013a)

$85 per day for highest possible substitute teacher cost for one teacher (Seminole County Public Schools, 2013b)

**References**

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