

School Programs for 2015-2016

School programs at Connecticut's Old State House reawaken citizen engagement and awareness by providing an authentic, educational and inspiring experience for students in all grade levels. The Old State House offers interactive and participatory school programs that focus on the history of the building, the role Connecticut played during the 18th and 19th centuries, civic participation and how government works. **Learn more at www.ctoldstatehouse.org!**

While group sizes (listed inside) are our recommendations, we try our best to accommodate everyone! Please contact us if you need special arrangements.

Other Educational Programs from Connecticut's Old State House

CONNECTICUT'S KID GOVERNOR

An interactive civics program for 5th graders.

Looking for a creative way for your 5th graders to learn about government, how it works, elections, and the importance of civic engagement? Consider participating in Connecticut's Kid Governor!



This past November, hundreds of 5th graders across the state participated in the election of the first ever Connecticut's Kid Governor through a pilot program created by Connecticut's Old State House. After an exciting race, the students elected Elena Tipton, who ran on a Campaign for Kindness. Your students can participate in the program by visiting CT.KidGovernor.org to learn about Elena's platform, follow Elena's kindness blog, and plan a kindness project in your community.

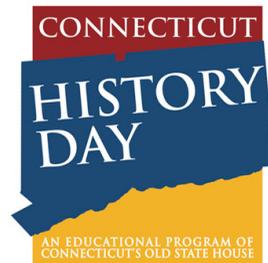
Consider participating in the November 2016 election for the next Connecticut's Kid Governor! For more information, email Head of Education Brian Cofrancesco at Brian.Cofrancesco@cga.ct.gov.

CONNECTICUT HISTORY DAY

Connecticut History Day encourages students in grades 6-12 to explore local, state, national, and world history.

After selecting a historical topic that relates to an annual theme, students conduct extensive research using libraries, archives, museums, and oral history interviews. Students analyze and interpret their findings, draw conclusions about their topic's significance in history, and create final projects that demonstrate their work. These projects can be entered into a series of competitions, from the local to the national level, where professional historians and educators evaluate them.

Connecticut History Day is one of 57 affiliate programs of the highly regarded National History Day program. For more information, email Head of Public Programs and History Day Rebecca Taber-Conover at Rebecca.Taber-Conover@cga.ct.gov or visit the program's website: www.historydayct.org.



Find and follow both CHD & CKG on Facebook!

BOOK YOUR VISIT TODAY!

To schedule your school visit, email or call **Jacob Orcutt**
jacob.orcutt@cga.ct.gov
(860) 522-6766 ext. 18
or fill out the online form on our website.

PROGRAM FEES

Students:

- \$4 per student for one program;
- \$5 per student for two programs.
- Groups of 10 students or fewer will be charged \$40 for one program or \$50 for two programs.

*Special fees apply to multi-site visit to The Wadsworth. See inside for details.

Teachers/Chaperones:

One complimentary teacher/chaperone admission for every 10 students. \$5 for each additional teacher/chaperone.

LUNCH SPACE FACILITIES

There is a \$25 fee for using the lunch room for 30 minutes. You may also choose to have lunch on the lawn free of charge, however you must remove your trash and indoor space is not guaranteed if there is inclement weather.

Groups that move lunch indoors are still responsible for the \$25 fee.

FREE & EASY PARKING

Bus parking is available free of charge on Central Row, directly adjacent to the Old State House.

For more information visit
www.ctoldstatehouse.org
or call (860) 522-6766

School Program Guide



An unforgettable learning experience where Connecticut's democracy was born



800 Main Street Hartford, CT
www.ctoldstatehouse.org
(860) 522-6766

Grades K & Up

History Is All Around Us

Visit this multi-sensory, multi-media exhibit that follows over 400 years of Hartford's history. Highlights include a 1912 Fire Engine and Mark Twain's bicycle! Design your own experience:

- Search and Discover - Working in teams, students explore the exhibition using a fun and educational "scavenger hunt."
- Build Hartford - Students examine the evolution of Hartford's built environment with a physical map activity and discussion about types of structures, building placement and changes in a community over time.
- Self-Guided - Students explore the exhibition at their own pace.

Grades: K-12 **Time:** 45-60 minutes

Group size: Min. 10 students **Max.** 50 students

"...role play and hands-on activities allowed the students to experience being part of the government."
- 5th Grade Teacher

New! My Community and Me

What is a community? What role do we play in our communities? Students learn about their local, state, national, and global communities and discuss what makes each unique. Using the stories of Connecticut's Old State House and the book *Harold and the Purple Crayon* as their guides, they discuss what makes a community, how communities are formed and work together, and illustrate how they fit into each community.

Grades: K-2 **Time:** 90 minutes

Group size: Min. 10 students **Max.** 25 students

I Spy the Old State House

Students exercise their powers of creativity, curiosity and observation when they create "spy glasses" to help them explore the art and architecture of Connecticut's Old State House.

Grades: K-2 **Time:** 45 minutes

Group size: Min. 10 students **Max.** 50 students

Grades 2 & Up

The Legend of the Charter Oak

What is the Charter Oak and why is it an important part of Connecticut history? Students will learn about the story by re-enacting the legendary event that took place in Hartford in 1687. They will also explore the *History Is All Around Us* exhibit to find items made from the wood of the great oak tree.

Grades: 2-5 **Time:** 90 minutes

Group size: Min. 10 students **Max.** 50 students

Grades 3 & Up

Discover the Old State House

Students explore Connecticut's Old State House through questioning and interactive activities. During this program, students examine the building's use over two hundred years and learn some of the key stories from its past.

Grades: 3-12 **Time:** 45-60 minutes

Group size: Min. 10 students **Max.** 60 students

How Government Works:

Connecticut's 3 Branches and Why They Matter

Fulfill your civics requirement in the historic rooms of Connecticut's Old State House as students engage in an interactive role-play election and mock court trial to learn about the three branches of state government!

Grades: 3-12 **Time:** 90 minutes

Group size: Min. 10 students **Max.** 70 students



The Place Where You Live: Multi-Site Visit with The Wadsworth

Students embrace the messages found in objects and architecture illustrating local and state history as they discover their place within this cultural narrative. Visits include hour-long tours at both the Wadsworth Atheneum and the Old State House.

At the Old State House, students participate in *These Walls Do Talk: Art and Architecture at the Old State House*. This program uses visual clues which illustrate the role history played in the art and architecture of the building, the site's significance as the birthplace of democracy and its connection to ancient Greece and Rome. At The Wadsworth, teachers may select either *Connecticut People & Places* or *American Art*.

Grades: 3-12 **Time:** 2.5 hours*

Group size: Min. 10 students **Max.** 120 students

Fees charged separately:

\$3 for each student at the Old State House. \$4 for each student/chaperone at The Wadsworth.

*Time includes walk between the Old State House and The Wadsworth.

Grades 4 & Up

Prudence Crandall and the Black Law

In the room where the historic Black Law of 1833 was passed, students meet Prudence Crandall, the school teacher from Canterbury, Connecticut and Andrew Judson, the lawyer and legislator who tried to stop her from teaching African-American girls in her school. Students take part in the dialogue by playing the roles of various historical characters that either supported or opposed Crandall and Judson's points of view.

Grades: 4-12 **Time:** 90 minutes

Group size: Min. 10 students **Max.** 60 students

Revolutionary Connecticut

The site of the Old State House was witness to many important events during the Revolutionary War. Students will role-play and interact with historical characters to learn about Connecticut's role in America's quest for independence and the significant contributions made by the state and its citizens during the American Revolution.

Grades: 4 - 12 **Time:** 90 minutes

Group size: Min. 10 students, **Max.** 60 students

"Thank you for a wonderful tour around the State House and for letting me be the judge. I loved that!"
- 4th Grade Student

Grades 5 & Up

Connecticut in the Civil War

What is the Civil War and why did it start? Did everyone in Connecticut agree about the war? How did it impact the people living in Connecticut? Students learn as they meet a Union soldier and discover what life was like on the battlefield, help a Connecticut woman with the "homefront" effort while her husband and sons are away at war, and participate in the 1863 Connecticut election that pitted war governor William Buckingham against "Peace Democrat" Thomas Seymour.

Grades: 5-12 **Time:** 90 minutes

Group size: Min. 10 students **Max.** 60 students

Freedom Once Taken: The Amistad Story

Perhaps the most famous court case ever heard at Connecticut's Old State House was the case of *La Amistad*. Students make a personal connection with the story as they explore the events of the trial from Hartford to New Haven to the U.S. Supreme Court, and learn about the people involved in the case in the fall of 1839. Students discuss the Atlantic slave trade, discover the stories of those involved in this ground-breaking trial, and debate if justice really was served. Modified for varied age groups. Participatory re-enactment and primary source activities available.

Grades: 5 - 12 **Time:** 90 minutes

Group size: Min. 10 students, **Max.** 60 students

Looking to enrich your Freedom Once Taken experience?

Local actress Tammy Denease (Historical Firsts) portrays Sarah Margu, one of the children held captive aboard the *Amistad*. Her theatrical performance, a 45-minute program delivered in the Courtroom at Connecticut's Old State House, is available for an additional fee. Interested schools should visit www.historicalfirsts.org for more information and can inquire about availability when booking their field trip to the Old State House. Once a performance is scheduled, the school will be responsible for paying Ms. Denease directly. Connecticut's Old State House is not responsible for performance content.