

Smith's Fort/Gray's Creek Farm (1763)

Surry

217 Smith Fort Ln, Surry, VA 23883 | (757) 294-3872 | education@preservationvirginia.org

School Programs Guide



Smith's Fort is a **Preservation Virginia** historic property. Founded in 1889, Preservation Virginia is the country's oldest statewide historic preservation group. In addition to advocating for and preserving historic sites across the Commonwealth, Preservation Virginia also owns and operates six historic sites as public museums: **Historic Jamestown** (1607, Jamestown), **Bacon's Castle** (1665, Surry), **Patrick Henry's Scotchtown** (1719, Hanover), **Smith's Fort/Gray's Creek Farm** (1763, Surry), **John Marshall House** (1790, Richmond), and **Cape Henry Lighthouse** (1792, Virginia Beach).

About Smith's Fort/Gray's Creek Farm: Welcome to Smith's Fort, the site of Captain John Smith's proposed "New Fort" directly across the James River from Jamestown. The site still has earthworks that mark the spot of the unfinished fort site, which was partially completed in 1609 before being abandoned due to the Starving Time. The manor house on the property was built for Jacob Faulcon c.1765 and retains much of its original pine woodwork. During the 19th century, the property came to be known as Gray's Creek Farm. Perhaps most notably, in 1886 the farm was purchased by a collective group of African American families including Bolling Morris, John and Carter Hardy, and Robertson Simmons. By the 1920s, Morris' son was the sole owner, eventually selling it to John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Smith's Fort was acquired by Preservation Virginia in 1933 and has operated as a museum ever since.

We look forward to receiving your group for a program in the near future. Please review the following information to plan your visit.

While all Smith's Fort site visits, outreach, and virtual programs empower students to develop skills in historical inquiry, analyzing primary sources, connecting past to present, and evaluating change over time, a **visit to Smith's Fort can satisfy the following Virginia Standards of Learning in Social Studies:**

- **Kindergarten:** Skills K, Civics K.1, K.2, K.3, History K.4, K.5, Geography K.6, K.7
- **1st Grade:** Skills 1, Civics 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, History 1.4, 1.5, Geography 1.6, 1.7, Economics 1.8
- **2nd Grade:** Skills 2, Civics 2.1, 2.3, 2.4 History 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.10, Geography 2.11, Economics 2.13
- **3rd Grade:** Skills 3, Civics 3.1, Geography 3.3, History 3.8, 3.9, Economics 3.10
- **4th Grade | Virginia Studies:** Skills VS, Physical Geography VS.1, Virginia's Indigenous People VS.2, 1607 through the American Revolution VS.3, VS.4, VS.5, Political Growth and Western Expansion VS.6, Civil War and Postwar Eras VS.7, VS.8, VS.9
- **5th Grade | U.S. History to 1865:** Skills USI, Geography of North America USI.1, Early Cultures of North America USI.2, USI.3, USI.4, Colonial America and the Revolution USI.5, USI.6, The Civil War USI.9
- **6th Grade | U.S. History 1865 to the Present:** Skills USII, Effects of Reconstruction USII.2, Industrialization and Growth USII.3
- **7th Grade | Civics and Economics:** Skills CE, American Constitutional Government CE.1, The Political Process CE.8, CE.9, CE.10
- **8th Grade | World Geography:** Skills WG, Introduction to Geography WG.1, Resources and Environment WG.2, Classifying and Identifying Regions WG.3, WG.7, Population and Migration WG.12, WG.13, Culture WG.14, WG.15, Political Geography WG.17
- **10th Grade | World History II (1500-present):** Skills WHII, Emergence of a Global Age WHII.3, Age of Revolutions WHII.4, Global Interactions WHII.6
- **11th Grade | Virginia/U.S. History:** Skills VUS, Early America through the Founding of a New Nation VUS.1, VUS.2, VUS.3, VUS.4, VUS.5, VUS.6, Expansion, Civil War, and

Reconstruction VUS.7, VUS.8, VUS.9, Industrialization, Emergence of Modern America, and World Conflicts VUS.10, VUS.12

- 12th Grade | U.S. Government: Skills GOVT, Foundations of American Constitutional Government GOVT.1, GOVT.2, GOVT.3, GOVT.4

Site Visit Field Experience Components: (\$125/group of 25 or fewer; or, \$5/each for group of 26+)¹

- 45 minute guided tour of the 1765 manor house and grounds
- 30-35 minute Add-On activity

Outreach Program Components: (\$150 and includes 2 repeated sessions in your school)

- 40-50 minute program presentation
- Extra: 30-35 minute Add-On activity

Virtual Program Component: (\$150 and includes 2 repeated sessions)

- 40-50 minute program presentation
- Pre/post-program activity

¹ Teachers and school personnel are always free!

Plan Your Visit

House Tours

Smith's Fort House Tours take students on a comprehensive, interpreter-led exploration of the 1765 manor house. Tours can accommodate up to 15 individuals in the house at a time. Larger groups can be divided and rotated through a staff-led Fort Site Hike and/or an Add-On Activities in addition to the house tour.

Fort Site Hike

The site of John Smith's 1609 "New Fort" is a quarter-mile hike from the manor house. An interpreter will lead students down the trail to the earthworks for a greater understanding of the site and its many uses.

Add-On Activities

For larger groups or those wanting to get the most from their visit, Smith's Fort offers additional programming. These programs are age-group specific and tailored to meet the SOL requirements and developmental abilities of a wide range of students. Each activity is hands-on and led by an interpreter.

Add-On Activities	Traveling Trunk Options	Virtual Program Options
☐ (K-5): The Power of Peanuts ☐ (K-11): Where In The World Is Surry, Virginia? Map Activity ☐ (3-11): From Mali to Virginia ☐ (4-11): Reconstruction Amendments ☐ (4-11): Analyzing Sources: Nat Turner ☐ (4-12) A Piece of the		☐ Piecing Together Pocahontas ☐ Reconstruction Amendments ☐ A Piece of the Action: the USCT ☐ Industrialization & American Farms ☐ Making Revolution Happen

Action: the USCT ☐ (4-12): Making Revolution Happen ☐ (6 & 11): Industrialization & American Farms ☐ (6-12): Archaeology of Smith's Fort ☐ (7-12): Collecting a Constitution		
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Add-On Activity Options	Traveling Trunk Options	Virtual or Outreach Program Options
☐ (K-5): The Power of Peanuts Learn about the history of peanut production in Tidewater Virginia and plant your own peanut plant to bring home! ☐ (4-11): Reconstruction Amendments Unpack how legislation during Reconstruction shaped the country's future with this primary source-driven activity. ☐ (K-11): Where In The World Is Surry, Virginia? Map Activity Examine a series of historic and modern maps to get a sense of Surry County's place on the globe. ☐ (3-11): From Mali to Virginia How did the people trafficked in the Transatlantic Slave Trade bring their culture to Virginia? What aspects of African cultures are part of our everyday lives? ☐ (4-11): Analyzing Sources: Nat Turner In 1831, Nat Turner became a household name. Investigate primary sources to		☐ Piecing Together Pocahontas There have been movies, songs, and more made about her, but how much do historians really know about Pocahontas? Find out in this fascinating program. ☐ Reconstruction Amendments Unpack how legislation during Reconstruction shaped the country's future with this primary source-driven activity. ☐ A Piece of the Action: the USCT In 1864, an enslaved man named John Hardy joined the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Years later, he would go on to be the owner of Gray's Creek Farm. Through his story, we will learn about the importance of the USCT in the Civil War, and the doors it opened for servicemembers. ☐ Industrialization & American Farms Through newspaper articles, letters, and the experiences of the Morris family

learn how the media shaped public response to his rebellion.

- ☐ **(4-12) A Piece of the Action: the USCT** | In 1864, an enslaved man named John Hardy joined the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Years later, he would go on to be the owner of Gray's Creek Farm. Through his story, we will learn about the importance of the USCT in the Civil War, and the doors it opened for servicemembers.
- ☐ **(4-12): Making Revolution Happen** | Once Virginia's leaders decided to join the American Revolution, how did they raise, clothe, feed, and supply an army? Peek into the world of the Faulcon family of Gray's Creek Farm to see how change began at the local level.
- ☐ **(6 & 11): Industrialization & American Farms** | Through newspaper articles, letters, and the experiences of the Morris family of Gray's Creek Farm, explore how the industrialization of the early 20th century affected rural life.
- ☐ **(6-12): Archaeology of Smith's Fort** | Get hands-on with history! "Excavate" real artifacts and try to determine what site you are digging.
- ☐ **(7-12): Collecting a Constitution** | The principles outlined in the Constitution were gathered from various writers, thinkers, and even cultures. Investigate how they came together in this activity.

of Gray's Creek Farm, explore how the industrialization of the early 20th century affected rural life.

- ☐ **Making Revolution Happen** | Once Virginia's leaders decided to join the American Revolution, how did they raise, clothe, feed, and supply an army? Peek into the world of the Faulcon family of Gray's Creek Farm to see how change began at the local level.