

# Vermont History Museum

## History for Homeschoolers: In-Person Class Guidelines

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### **What is History for Homeschoolers?**

History for Homeschoolers is the Vermont History Museum's monthly homeschool program. Participants are invited to attend either the second Wednesday or Thursday of the month, from September to May. Each class will focus on a different aspect of Vermont's history. Participants will get a chance to explore various history related activities in each class. History for Homeschoolers is recommended for participants ages 7-12. Some tasks include reading and writing components. If your child needs assistance, please contact Danielle Harris-Burnett to create a plan to support your child.

### **Location**

History for Homeschoolers will take place at the Vermont History Museum at 109 State Street, Montpelier VT. Individual classes may be held at the Vermont History Center at 60 Washington Street, Barre VT depending on the monthly topic. Participants will be notified ahead of the class if the class location is at the Vermont History Center.

### **Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures**

History for Homeschoolers is the second Wednesday or Thursday of the month, from 1 to 3 pm. Parents/guardians must drop-off and pick-up students at the Vermont History Museum. Participants are required to sign in to count towards class attendance. Parents/guardians are welcome to stay for the class or visit the Vermont History Museum with younger children.

### **Cancellation Policy**

For the 2023-2024 school year, Vermont Historical Society (VHS) staff are implementing a subscription model for History for Homeschoolers. Participants will pay a one-time fee for all classes from September to May. Parents/guardians can obtain a refund if they are unable to attend a session. Please notify VHS educational staff at least 24 hours in advance of a class to receive a refund for that session. If a parent/guardian does not contact VHS staff at least 24 before the class, they will receive a copy of the class materials from that month via email.

If the Vermont History Museum is closed due to weather, VHS staff will provide an option to attend a rescheduled class or obtain a refund.

### **Health and Safety**

The Vermont Historical Society is committed to the health and wellbeing of all participants in History for Homeschoolers. As such, we ask that all participants and their families follow guidelines for health and safety.

#### ***Safety***

The Vermont History Museum is open to the public during the History for Homeschooler classes, from 10-4. As such, program participants are always required to be with a class instructor or parent/guardian during the class.

#### ***Medical/ Allergies***

Please notify Vermont Historical Society of any medical conditions or allergies that may impact a participant's health or safety. VHS staff is committed to providing an allergen-safe environment for program participants. Staff will follow state building guidelines in the event of a medical emergency. Staff are also equipped with a basic first-aid kit on premises. Parents/ guardians will be notified immediately if a participant is injured during the program.

### ***Illness***

Parents/guardians should cancel if anyone is feeling sick or has been exposed to COVID-19 within the last 5 days. A full refund for the session will be provided for sickness-related cancellations.

Participants are encouraged to wash their hands upon arrival and use hand sanitizer as appropriate. The Museum will also have hand sanitizer readily available. Masks are welcome and optional at the Vermont History Museum

## **Class Participation**

History for Homeschoolers is committed to building the learning portfolio of program participants. As such, participants are welcome to take any class materials home with them. Participants will also be presented with a certificate of completion at the end of the 2023-2024 classes in May.

### ***Expectations***

History for Homeschoolers aims to be a safe and engaging program for all our participants! To ensure the program's overall success, it is important that all participants follow class and safety guidelines. Parent(s) and/or guardian(s) are responsible for reviewing the expectations with the students to establish a clear understanding prior to attendance. VHS staff will use a fair and consistent approach to behavior management. This approach includes:

- Verbal reminder(s) - like redirection to task, correcting unsafe behavior in space(s)
- Moving/separating students to minimize distraction/disruption
- Providing access to a safe break space when asked for by participant
- Notifying parent(s)/guardian(s) only if behavior becomes notably disruptive to their learning, or the learning of others
  - VHS staff will request a brief meeting/phone call to discuss how to best support the student before the next class

Any participant whose behavior is considered detrimental to the best interests, health, or safety of other participants, staff, or themselves is subject to early dismissal from the History for Homeschoolers class. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified immediately. Detrimental behavior(s) include the threat of, or actual:

- Physical harm – hitting, pushing, inappropriate touching
- Emotional harm – inappropriate language, verbal threats, harassment

If the behavior persists and detrimental violations are repeated, The Vermont Historical Society reserves the right to suspend student participation in the History for Homeschoolers program.

### ***Accommodations***

The History for Homeschoolers strives to be an inclusive educational program that recognizes the diversity of learning needs and preferences amongst individuals. During registration, please notify VHS staff of any known learning needs so that they can be considered when planning for our sessions. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are welcome to stay with their participant, as they often know how to best assist them in accessing material. Please note that while VHS staff are happy to help participants during the program, they are unable to provide continuous one-on-one instruction/support.

## **Parent/ Guardian Expectations**

Parents/guardians are welcome to stay for History for Homeschooler sessions. To establish a safe and productive learning environment, we ask that all parent/guardians observe the following expectations:

*Vermont History Museum History for Homeschoolers: In-Person Class Guidelines*

- Parents/guardians are welcome to support their participant(s) involved in a pre-established co-operative learning setting.
  - VHS staff will assist participants when needed. Please do not provide assistance to other children unless directly asked or given consent by their parent/guardian.
- During guided instruction, parents/ guardians are welcome to aid their participant as needed.
  - To minimize distraction during learning, please use the lobby for non-History for Homeschoolers activities.
- Please drop off participants in the Snelling Room at the front of the Vermont History Museum, VHS staff will greet participants at the check-in table.
- Ensure any participants with life-threatening allergies are equipped with their medication.
- Notify VHS staff of any changes to schedules, learning accommodations, allergies/medical conditions, *at least 24 hours* before a session.