



Student & Youth Program Descriptions

Our offerings evolve daily, and we welcome opportunities to tailor programs to suit your students' needs.

Contact us for information about:

- Admission fees and scheduling availability
- Up-to-date information about youth programming options
- Tailored program options
- Scholarship Opportunities

youthprograms@acwm.org | 804.649.1861, ext. 122 | acwm.org/book-a-program

Menu of Current Youth Programs

The American Civil War Museum currently offers the following programs for groups of students or youth. All programs can be adapted for youth in grades 3-12. Most groups choose 3 or 4 programs per location to experience in rotation over a 2-hour visit. Click here for some suggested program itineraries.

Site-Specific Guided Programs*

Let the experts guide your students through history. With hands-on, artifact-driven, student-centered programs, we can help your students navigate the complexities of the Civil War, often in the space where important events happened. **These programs vary by location – choose your field trip destination(s) first, then read more about our offerings.**

Guided Tours

Join Museum educators for a guided exploration of the Civil War through the Museum's exhibits and historic locations. Each location offers a unique vantage point for looking at a complex and surprising history through artifact-based observation and conversation.

Appomattox Location:

Appomattox Exhibit

Explore the overlapping stories of the end of the War and the reunification of a nation using artifacts, photographs, and documents in the Museum's permanent exhibit. How did the War impact peoples' lives, both in its final days and after surrender?

Length: 30 minutes

Standards: VS.7, VS.1, USI.1, USII.1, CE.1

Historic Tredegar Location:

“A People’s Contest” Exhibit Tour (NEW)

In our new permanent exhibit, *A People’s Contest: Struggles for Nation and Freedom in Civil War America*, immerse yourself in the chaos and complexity of the Civil War at a human level. With an ACWM educator, discover stories from diverse Americans struggling through the challenging war years told through colorized images, experiential displays, and unique artifacts. When confronted by the reality of

war, what choices did people make? How did life change for all Americans in the aftermath?

Length: 30 minutes

Standards: USI.9, VUS.7, USII.3, USI.1, CE.1, USII.1

Brown's Island Tour

Explore the entire Civil War from a quarter-mile walk along the James River, from the iron works that cast cannon used to fire on Fort Sumter in April of 1861 to President Abraham Lincoln visiting Richmond in April of 1865. What were women, children, free and enslaved African American people doing during the War? What were conditions really like in prison camps? Encounter local stories of triumph and tragedy that exemplify life—and death—for many people during the War.

Length: 45 minutes

Standards: VS.7, USI.9, USII.3, VUS.7, USI.1

The Civil War Soldier: Boredom, Blisters, and Bullets

Soldiers spent the majority of their time not fighting in battles but living in camp or making long treks across the South. Many men were away from home for the first time, adjusting to life with little food and lots of company. How did they stay busy? Was living in camp any safer than fighting on the battlefield? Experience some of what filled a soldier's day from recruitment to drill practice, and witness a demonstration firing of a rifle musket.

Length: 30 minutes Standards:

USI.9, VUS.7, USI.1

Tredegar History Tour (NEW)

Tredegar Iron Works was the Confederacy's most important industrial complex during the Civil War. In peacetime, it supplied the vast expansion of the railroad industry; in war, it produced the largest number of cannon in the Confederacy. Discover the historic buildings on site, the vital role of the iron works, and the diverse people who worked there.

Length: 45 minutes

Standards: VS.7, VUS.7, USI.9, VS.1, VS.2, USI.1

White House of the Confederacy Location:

White House of the Confederacy Tour

Journey through the house that served as home to Confederate president Jefferson Davis during the Civil War, restored to what it looked like during Davis's stay. Who else lived in, worked in, or visited the home during the War? What can their stories tell us about life at a time when Americans of all walks of life were experiencing immense heartache and suffering while maintaining hope for the future?

Length: 45 minutes

Standards: VUS.7, USI.9, VS.7, VS.1, USI.1, USII.1, CE.1

Historic Tredegar and White House of the Confederacy Locations:

Walking Tours

Walk in the footsteps of history—explore the Civil War through guided walking tours of the city that served as the center of the domestic slave trade, capital of the Confederacy, and one of the main targets of Union forces throughout the War.

Starting Location: Historic Tredegar, White House of the Confederacy Length:

Varies

Standards: VS.7, VUS.7, VS.1, USI.1, USII.1

All Locations:

Tailored Programs

We are always excited to tailor programs to suit your students' needs, learning styles, content, and interests. Ask about having any of our general programs tailored to your class or about designing a program just for you.

Available at all locations, length and standards vary

Classroom and Self-Guided Programs*

With the same focus on historical and critical thinking skills, these included programs are designed to be cost-effective opportunities for your students to explore the Civil War. Most classroom programs are available at all ACWM locations.

Self-Guided Exhibit Tour

Delve into the Civil War at your own pace with specially designed materials for teachers, chaperones, and students. Make your way through our unique exhibits with carefully selected stopping points provided, along with thought-provoking questions, detailed background information, and compelling discussion ideas. Options available for permanent and temporary exhibits at both locations.

Locations: Appomattox, Historic Tredegar

Length: About 30 minutes

Standards: USI.9, VUS.7, USII.3, USI.1, CE.1, USII.1

Classroom Programs

Discover the complexities of the Civil War and its legacies through interactive classroom-based programs. Museum educators facilitate in-depth experiences rich in primary sources and inquiry-based historical thinking exercises. Groups can choose one classroom program per site.

Locations: Appomattox, Historic Tredegar, White House of the Confederacy Length: 30 minutes

Artifact Investigation

What is an artifact, and what can it tell us about the people who used it? This program invites students to touch, handle, and investigate reproduction artifacts relating to actual and diverse people who lived during the Civil War and to explore their lives through their possessions.

Discover a variety of true stories from the Civil War from a different point of view.

Standards: VS.7, USI.9, USI.1, CE.1, VS.1, USII.1

Getting it Wrong

How can two people look at one event with completely different—even opposite—memories of it? Historians often have to try to figure out the true story by reading between the lines. This program asks students to analyze true historical events using primary sources to try to determine what actually happened.

Standards: CE.1, USI.1, USII.1, CE.1

Medicine in the Civil War

Why did more soldiers die in hospitals than in battle? How does modern medical technology compare to that of the Civil War? Despite the terrible challenges facing field surgeons and nurses, there were impressive advancements in military medicine during the War. Delve into some of these advancements as well as the reasons behind the striking death toll.

Standards: USI.9, VUS.7, VS.1, USI.1, USII.1, CE.1

Civil War Geography (Appomattox only, coming soon to Richmond)

How did geography impact the Civil War? Where were major battles, what were their outcomes, and why were there more battles in some locations than others? How did the location of major cities influence military strategy? Explore the geographic features, including rivers, mountains, regions, cities,

and battle sites and how they can help us answer questions about the War. Program can focus on either United States or Virginia geography.

Standards: VS.1, VS.2, VS.7, USI.1, USI.2, USI.9, USII.1, USII.2, VUS.7

Ask about collaborative options with National Park Service partners:

Appomattox (with **Appomattox Court House National Historical Park** -- more info [here](#))

- *Multi-site Field Trip with Appomattox Court House NHP, American Civil War Museum– Appomattox, and the Holiday Lake 4-H Education Center (4th - 12th grade), 2 days*

Historic Tredegar (with **Richmond National Battlefield Park** -- more info [here](#))

*Pricing:

- **Rates include museum admission, a classroom program, and one site-specific guided experience.** Additional guided experiences can include more programs at the same or different Museum locations. For more specific information, [contact us](#) or check [here](#).
- **Programming depends on availability.** Reservations must be booked at least two weeks in advance. Reservations of fewer than two weeks in advance are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- **The program offerings above require a minimum of 15 people.** Programming is available for smaller groups if they pay for the equivalent of 15 people.