



MIDDLETON PLACE

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Note: The Middleton Place Education Department works with individual teachers to customize each visit to meet current classroom objectives. Teachers may choose from a program below or work with the staff to combine elements of one or more programs to meet their needs. All groups must be booked at least 2 weeks before the date of their visit. When contacting the Director of Education, please include the following information: A name and address for the school or institution, the date you would like to visit, your arrival and departure time, the number of students that will be attending and their grade level, the number of faculty that will be attending, the number of non-faculty chaperons that will be attending, what programming you would like for your visit, and whether you will be bringing your own lunches or if you are interested in Middleton Place options for lunch (please include what time you would like the students to have lunch).

Each tour has a limit of 30 students at one time. If your group is larger than 30, the students must be divided up into smaller groups. Please discuss the group size and division with the Director of Education prior to your visit. Groups must be divided and set **prior** to arrival.

The following are included in the General Admission price of \$8.50 per student (\$10 per college student) and \$12 per chaperon, no charge for faculty:

Meet the Breeds: (Pre K-12th grade)

Students will receive an overview of the agricultural practices, crops, and livestock utilized between 1740 and 1865, including the importance of slave labor to this system. The program includes the animal paddocks and the herb and vegetable gardens. All animals found on the plantation today are heritage breeds, meaning they were all present on the plantation in the 18th or 19th Century. Cows, sheep, goats, horses, water buffalo, and many types of fowl will be discussed, along with important crops. The work done by each specific animal will also be discussed. (30 minutes).

The Living History Stableyards Experience: (Pre K-12th grade)

Students will observe hands-on activities with historical interpreters in the Stableyards, including a blacksmith, cooper, seamstress, and potter, (whoever is present on the plantation the day of their visit) demonstrating skills that would have been practiced by slave artisans. The same tools and methods utilized in the past are still in use today (no modern tools). Students may also visit

the Outdoor Education Center where they will learn how to process rice by using a mortar & pestle and fanner baskets. (30 minutes).

Garden Overview: (Grades Pre K-12)

A trained garden interpreter conducts a tour discussing the design, history, and horticulture of the Middleton Place Gardens. Native and exotic plants, European elements of design, and the evolution of the gardens over time will be demonstrated. (30 minutes)

Plantation Overview Tour: (Grades Pre K-12)

A trained interpreter will lead students on a tour of Middleton Place. Stops on the tour include the Gardens, the Parterre, and the Butterfly Lakes. Students will learn about the overall design of Middleton Place, elements of formal gardens, transportation to and from the plantation, and native and exotic plants. (60 minutes).

Beyond the Fields: Slavery at Middleton Place: (Grades 8-12)

A comprehensive tour that focuses on site-specific information about the lives of African American slaves and freedmen of Middleton Place. The tour begins at Eliza's House, a freedman's dwelling, where everyday domestic life will be discussed. Labor, including the task system, is explored at the Mill and rice field. Religion and spirituality are investigated with stops at the Plantation Chapel and the Slave Cemetery. (60 minutes).

The following require a charge in addition to the general admission price:

Guided House Museum Tour: (6-12th grade) \$8 per person charge in addition to general admission price, no charge for faculty

Students tour the surviving 1755 South Flanker of the original house complex. Inside, students will learn the history of the Middletons while viewing objects that help illustrate the family's role in American history. Almost all of the objects in the House Museum belonged to Middleton family members (45 minutes).

Carriage Ride: (Grades 8-12) \$18 per person charge in addition to general admission, faculty discount does not apply. Limit of 80 people total for the Horse Carriage.

Explore Middleton Place as the family did during the 18th and 19th centuries. Students will board a handcrafted carriage at the Visitor Center and tour the outer limits of Middleton Place, which may include the lush bamboo forest, flooded rice fields, and scenic woodlands (season and

weather appropriate). Native flora and fauna can be viewed throughout the tour and a professional driver teaches plantation and Middleton family history. (45 minutes). **Limit of 80 people total for the Horse Carriage.**

Organic Heritage Crop Farm and Bee Sanctuary: (Pre-K-12) \$5.00 per person charge in addition to general admission price, no charge for faculty

Students visit the Organic Heritage Crop Farm where growing methods are entirely organic (including mulching, composting, and pest control). Students will learn the importance of heritage and organic crop strains (no genetically modified crops) as well as sustainable agriculture. Many of the crops also represent crops grown on the plantation in the past. Students will learn every step of the process from planting of seeds through harvesting the crops, most of which end up in the Middleton Place Restaurant. Students will also learn about the burgeoning Local First Movement, which is a modern version of how things were done in the past. In addition, students will view two working honey bee hives and discuss the tremendous importance of honey bees, and other pollinators, to farming in the past and present. There is also the opportunity for students to do some hands-on work with the farm's coordinators. In addition, students will visit the Honey Bee Sanctuary. The Sanctuary includes an outdoor classroom where students will learn about local honey bees and their importance as pollinators to organic farming and get to sample some of the local Middleton Place honey. Besides the working hives, students will view an observation hive where they will be able to view the inner workings of a honey beehive. (60 minutes). If a student has an allergy to bee stings, the Director of Education must be notified prior to booking. Every person visiting the Farm and Sanctuary must sign a waiver prior to arrival.

The Living History Stableyards Experience Hands-On Activities: (Pre-K-12) \$2.50 per person charge in addition to general admission price, no charge for faculty

Teachers will choose two additional activities for the students. They include: corn grinding, pinch pots, or candle making. For corn grinding, students will use a corn mill consisting of two grind stones, powered by human labor. Students get first-hand knowledge of how to produce feed and the amount of physical work it took to produce it. Candle making consists of students dipping candles of their own in the same manner they were made in the past. Students are welcome to take their candles home. Pinch pots involve students making their own clay pots using the same materials used in the Potter's demonstration. The students will be welcome to take their pinch pots home with them. (30-45 minutes). **Limit of 30 students for pinch pots or cow milking. Group must arrive by 9am for cow milking.**

House Museum Tour Hands-On Activities: \$2.50 per person charge in addition to general admission price, no charge for faculty

Students will enter the Library in the House Museum where they will participate in a hands-on demonstration lasting 15-20 minutes. They will view and handle items such as reproduction breeches representing the clothing worn by Middleton family members, a cutout representing the work of Thomas Elfe and his famous Charleston furniture (an original breakfast table is in the House Museum), and an antebellum tea cup and saucer. They will also receive a copy of the Lincoln Pass, a handwritten pass from Abraham Lincoln (the original is in the House Museum) that the students may take home with them. (15-20 minutes).

Middleton Inn Tour: \$5 per person charge in addition to general admission price, no charge for faculty

Students will visit the Middleton Inn where they will take a guided tour of the property. The history of the property as a Phosphate Mine will be discussed, along with the architectural plans of W. G. Clark and Charles Menefee. Stress on blending architecture and the natural countryside was especially important for those involved in planning and construction. Students will also view the interior of a guest room including a discussion of aspects of unique Charleston architectural features present in the rooms. (30 minutes).

Low Country Buffet Lunch: Many of the items on the Low Country Buffet are prepared using traditional recipes. A handout discussing the history of these recipes is available upon request. Please request this handout prior to the group's visit.

Chaperones of school groups at Middleton Place must make the safety of students in their charge their foremost priority. Students are not permitted to feed, pet or antagonize any of the heritage breed farm animals or wildlife, may not climb onto any structure, and are expected to stay on paths and remain supervised at all times. Please help avoid any safety issues by making sure these rules are enforced.

If a House Tour is scheduled as part of the itinerary for a group, chaperones must make sure that students are obeying the rules of the House Museum as outlined by your guide.

Children often are led by example. Please make sure that as a chaperone you are setting the right example by being respectful to all Middleton Place personnel and following instructions when given. Middleton Place Guides are NOT here to be disciplinarians for students.