MIDDLETON PLACE FOUNDATION

The Middleton Place Foundation’s Education Department works with individual teachers to curate each visit to meet current classroom objectives. Teachers may choose from the listed programs below or work with the staff to combine elements of one or more programs to fulfill their educational 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.
- Selected programming would you like for your visit.
- Whether you intend to bring your 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. Before your visit, please discuss the group size and division with the Director of Education. Groups must be divided and set before arrival. The following are included in the General Admission price of $9 per student ($10 per college student) and $18.50 per chaperone, with 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 significant contributions of enslaved people. The program includes a tour of the animal paddocks and the herb and vegetable gardens. The animals found at Middleton Place 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, including the work done by each specific animal. (30 minutes)

**The 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 their visit), demonstrating skills that enslaved skilled artisans would have practiced. 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 to learn how to process rice using mortar and 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 design elements, and the gardens' evolution over time will be demonstrated. (30 minutes)

Plantation Overview Tour: (Grades Pre K-12)
A trained historical 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 enslaved Africans/African Americans 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 fields. Religion and spirituality are investigated with stops at the Plantation Chapel and the Cemetery. (60 minutes)
The following require a charge in addition to the general admission price:

**Guided House Museum Tour**: (6-12th grade) $12 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)

**The Living History Stableyards Experience Hands-On Activities**: (Pre-K-12) $3 per person charge in addition to general admission price, no charge for faculty. Teachers will choose two additional activities for the students. They include pinch pots, candle making, or indigo dyeing. Candle making consists of students dipping their own candles like 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 Potter’s demonstration. The students will be welcome to take their pinch pots home with them. Indigo dyeing will involve dyeing a piece of cloth, learning about indigo processing, and understanding the importance of indigo to the colonial South Carolina economy. The students are welcome to take their cloth home with them. (30-45 minutes). **Limit of 30 students for pinch pots.**

**Middleton Inn Tour**: $5 per person charge in addition to general admission price, no charge for faculty. Students will visit the Middleton Inn and take a guided property tour. The property's history 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 significant 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)

**Lowcountry Buffet Lunch**: Many items on the Lowcountry Buffet are prepared using traditional recipes. A handout discussing the history of these recipes is available upon request. Please request this handout before the group’s visit.
Chaperones of school groups at Middleton Place must prioritize the safety of students in their charge. Students are not permitted to feed, pet, or antagonize any 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 a group's itinerary, chaperones must ensure that students obey the House Museum rules as outlined by your guide. Children often are led by example. Please ensure that as a chaperone, you are setting the right example by respecting all Middleton Place Foundation personnel and following instructions when given.

Please get in touch with Greg Smith, Director of Education, at gsmith@middletonpalce.org for further information.