



Guide to Field Trips and Educational Programs



1736 Creek Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317 ♦ 610-388-7376 ♦ chaddsfordhistory.org

Who We Are

The Chadds Ford Historical Society is a non-profit organization that was created to preserve important properties, records, and artifacts in the community. We use these resources to interpret our local history and educate the public about daily life in the Chadds Ford area with emphasis on the eighteenth century.

Where We Are

Chadds Ford is located at the intersections of Routes 1 and 100, a few miles from the Pennsylvania-Delaware Border. Nearby attractions include the Brandywine Battlefield, the Brandywine River Museum, Longwood Gardens, and Downtown West Chester.



What Sets Us Apart

Our field trips allow students to explore three historic structures built before the American Revolution. Students can also engage in hands-on activities such as making candles and marbles, practicing calligraphy, or playing colonial games. What really makes

us unique, however, is that our programs focus on more than just daily colonial life. Because John Chads ran a ferry across the Brandywine and the Barns-Brinton House was a tavern for people travelling from Philadelphia to Baltimore, we are really able to show students how people travelled in the 18th century. The Historical Society has also been baking bread and cooking over a hearth of our historic houses for years, which gives us the ability to teach students about historic foodways.

Our Historic Resources



John Chads House

Built around 1725, John Chads owned the home from 1729 until his death in 1760. Beginning in 1736, John Chads operated a ferry across the Brandywine Creek. The location became commonly known as Chad's ford, which is believed to be the origination of Chadds Ford. During the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777, John's wife Elizabeth remained in the home (allegedly hiding her silver spoons in her pockets). Elizabeth continued to live in the home until her death in 1790.

Birmingham School No. 1

This small structure was initially built as a springhouse for John and Elizabeth Chads and is believed to have been damaged by artillery during the Battle of Brandywine. In the 1830s, it was converted into the first public school in Birmingham Township and served in that capacity until the late 1800s. The main floor has been preserved to demonstrate its use as a one room school house.



Barns– Brinton House

In the early 1700s, blacksmith William Barns foresaw the need for a tavern on "Ye Great Road to Nottingham", a major thoroughfare between Maryland and Philadelphia. In 1714, he built a structure with distinctive Flemish bond brickwork and a diamond-patterned gable. James Brinton subsequently purchased the property, where he witnessed the Battle of the Brandywine in 1777.



Living History House Tours, Craft Making, and Primary Source Activities

ArtiFACTUALLY: You Are the Historians & Archaeologists

(K-6th grades; 60-90 minutes for one house, 120-180 minutes for two houses)

What is that?! Learning through objects is one of the best ways for young scholars to connect with the past. Students will become archaeologists and historians by analyzing objects, primary source documents, and maps to imagine what life was like in Colonial Pennsylvania. Students will develop concepts of wants and needs, learn about resources and scarcity, and the production of goods and services during the 18th century. (Activities and crafts are hands-on and tailored to grade level.)



SAS: Civics 5.1; Economics 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.5; Geography 7.1, 7.2; History 8.1, 8.2

Everyday Colonial Life: John Chads House & Springhouse Tour

(K-6 grades; 60-90 minutes)

Tour the home and springhouse that started the legacy of John Chads, the namesake of our town. In the house, students will learn about the man who owned the first ferry to ford the Brandywine River as well as his wife with whom he lived with until his death in 1760. By comparing this house to their own, students will get a chance to see how people survived in a time without modern conveniences. Program includes one craft or activity.

SAS: Civics 5.1; Economics 6.1, 6.5; Geography 7.1, 7.3; History 8.1, 8.2

The Chore of Toil and Travel in Colonial America: Barns-Brinton House & Tavern Tour

(K-6th grade; 60-90 minutes)



Tour an original 18th century tavern and learn how people ate and traveled in the days of covered wagons. Students will also learn about the daily chores of the children who lived here, including gardening, cooking, cleaning, fiber making, weaving, and blacksmithing, as well as the challenges of running a business during the 18th century. Program includes one craft or activity.

SAS: Civics 5.1; Economics 6.1, 6.5; Geography 7.1, 7.3; History 8.1, 8.2

American Revolution Era Programming

EqualiTEA: Women in the Age of the Revolution! (4th-6th grades; 90 minutes)

Students will visit the home of Elizabeth Chads, who was present for the Battle of the Brandywine during the American Revolution, and compare and contrast a traditional 18th century home with their home today. They will also learn about the history of a women's movement, exceptional patriotic female spies, midwives, first ladies, and even female soldiers; the struggle for Equality, Justice, and Liberty started hundreds of years ago; now that's the TEA!

SAS: Civics 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4; Economics 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4; Geography 7.2; History 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4



PatRIOTS: Riots, Boycotts, & Designing a New Government!

(4th-6th grades; 90 minutes)

Students will visit the Barns-Brinton Tavern, a family home and a place for food, drink, and even lodging for travelers. Students will learn about the unrest that existed in the colony of Pennsylvania in the 1700s, taxation without representation, the Boston Tea Party, and battles that led to the American Revolution. Taverns were the traditional place for local political meetings and discussions of this new Democracy, which can be seen through both conflicts and compromises of civilians and soldiers during the revolution.

SAS: Civics 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4; Economics 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4; Geography 7.2; History 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4

Birmingham Schoolhouse Programs

Get Schooled in Pennsylvania

(K-3rd grades; 45-60 minutes)

Students will visit a one-room school house and learn about the symbols of Pennsylvania, the importance of rules and fairness, and teaching methods for children living in the 1800s. Students will dress for a school day, write on a slate board, and participate in child's play and chores. Children will compare and contrast life then to now as students, teachers, parents, and children.

SAS: Civics 5.2; Geography 7.1; History 8.1, 8.2, 8.3



Escape the Schoolhouse: historically schoolhouse themed escape room

(2nd-5th grades; 45 minutes)

Our teacher has had enough of the daily pranks from these pupils! It is high time that the students learn their lesson! Students will not be permitted to have recess or go home for lunch unless they find the key to the schoolhouse door, and we are not giving too many hints or clues. Students will solve a series of math problems, puzzles, and riddles to escape the schoolhouse!

SAS: Geography 7.1; Mathematics CC2.; Approaches to Learning through Play AL.1, AL.3, AL.4;



Crossing the Ford: Outreach School Programs

History on the Road

The Chadds Ford Historical Society is hitting the road! Our museum educators will come to your school for a hands-on educational program visit during your classroom time for social studies or for small assemblies by grade level. (Our maximum travel distance is 25 miles.)

Colonial Life: Food, Clothing, and Shelter

(K- 6th; 45 minutes, activities and documents are tailored to each grade level)



Museum educators bring Colonial Life to your school! From the basics of food, clothing, and shelter students will be excited to discover how colonists survived without all of our present-day comforts and conveniences. How did colonists light and heat their homes? How was food cooked and preserved in a time before microwaves and refrigerators? How was farming and gardening done? What did colonists wear and how did they make cloth and thread? Answering these questions with artifacts, your students will be engaged in hands-on activities and crafts that bring Colonial history to life.

SAS: Geography 7.1, History 8.1, 8.2, 8.3

Whigs, Tories, Quakers, Soldiers & Civilians: Perspectives in the Age of the Revolution

(4th-6th grade; 45-60 minutes)

Students will participate in role playing with personas and objects to reveal 18th century political unrest, belief systems, and the struggle for the balance between liberty and loyalty that existed for many Pennsylvania colonists in the early 1700s. Students will develop a better understanding of the Declaration of Independence and the break that was ultimately made with England by looking at the different lives of soldiers and civilians, men, women, and children in the era of the Revolution.



SAS: Civics 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4; Economics 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4; Geography 7.1; History 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4

Programs for Adults and Higher Ed.

These programs are ideal for high schoolers, college students, history clubs, or anyone looking to learn more about the history of Chadds Ford.



Guided House Tour

Estimated Time: 1-2 hours

Price: One House: \$6; Two Houses: \$10

Take a guided tour of the John Chads House or Barns-Brinton Tavern with an experienced interpreter dressed in colonial garb. Visitors will learn about two of the early settlers of Chads Ford as well as how people lived in the early 18th century. Tours are dialogue based and can be tailored to meet the interests of your party. Visitors can also tour both sites for a package deal that includes Birmingham School No. 1.*

*Birmingham School No. 1 is included in the John Chads House Tour.

Escape Brandywine

Estimated Time: 60-90 minutes

Price: \$28 per person

This unique escape room experience occurs inside an authentic historical house with a Revolutionary War mission! Using real 18th century spy techniques, codes, and cyphers, players have one hour to solve puzzles, locate battle plans, and escape to deliver the plans to General Washington. Please make appointment in advance with the Education Coordinator.



General Information

Crafts that can be added to any of these programs include:

- Candle Making
- Clay marbles
- Corn husk dolls
- Calligraphy
- Papermaking
- Tin Punching
- And many more!



Policy

- Students will be split up into groups of 10-15 for the duration of the trip, each requiring at least one teacher or chaperone.



- Please notify the Historical Society at least 48 hours in advance to cancel or postpone a field trip.
- Food, drink, gum, and flash photography are not permitted inside any of our historic buildings.
- School groups may eat lunch on site either outside or in the Visitor Center.
- Buses may drop off students at either the Visitor Center (1736 Creek Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317) or the Barns-Brinton House (630 Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford, PA 19317).
- The gift shop will be open for students and chaperones at the end of the trip.

Pricing

Each program lasts 60-90 minutes and costs \$6 per student. Teachers can book two programs the same day at a reduced cost of \$10 per student. Groups of 35 or more **must** book two programs.

Contact: Tom Snow, Education and Programs Manager

610-388-7376 ♦ education@chaddsfordhistory.org

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