

Museum of Appalachia

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The Museum of Appalachia, an official Smithsonian Affiliate, is a farm-village with some three-dozen historic log structures. The exhibit also hosts halls filled with authentic Appalachian artifacts, gardens, and farm animals in a picturesque setting surrounded by split-rail fences.

This extensive and fascinating Museum tells the stories of the Appalachian people in their own words and through the artifacts they left behind. It's a valuable resource for teaching regional history and culture. The Mark Twain Family Cabin was the Tennessee home of the famous American author's family; they moved to Missouri some five months before his birth. Structures include log cabins, a rare cantilevered barn, one-room schoolhouse, log church, and old-time sawmill. The Hall of Fame houses numerous exhibits including an extensive collection of old-time musical instruments, perpetual motion machine, and a machine gun captured by World War I hero Sergeant Alvin York. Musicians play old-time tunes "on the porch" for visitors.

Program info: Student groups receive an interactive musical program and orientation. Children learn about life in historic Appalachia, and have the opportunity to sing and play simple musical instruments including the spoons, washboards, washtub bass, and saws. A self-guided Museum tour follows.

Cost: \$6.00 per student

Hours: Seasonal; call for days and hours of operation

Lunch: Groups may bring picnic lunches to eat on the grounds

Shopping: American-made regional crafts available in the gift shop at the Museum

Chaperones: Free admission for teachers

Teaching resources, developed according to state curriculum guidelines, are available on the Museum website, www.museumofappalachia.org.

For Title I schools, the Museum offers a donor-funded assistance program, "Everybody Tours," providing half off student admission rates.

Please call the Museum at 865-494-7680 to schedule this program for your students.