

ecmc

A teacher's guide to Casper's museums

March 2011

Casper
Museum
Consortium



Hit the Trails!

**NHTIC offers group tours,
hands-on learning**

Enhance your essential curriculum with a guided tour at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center! The interactive elements, such as a Mormon handcart or a virtual wagon ride across the river, will help students understand key elements of the trails westward. Be sure to book a tour for your class! You can now see what time-slots are available for your students online at <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/NHTIC/educate.html> and call to book a tour at (307) 261-7700.

Please remember that we cannot double book tours and time-slots are first-come, first-served. Check the on-line calendar for availability now!

Also, we can only provide tours for no more than 60 students at a time, and we require one chaperone for every 10 students. If you have a group of 60 or more, be sure to call and we will be happy to aid you in booking a rotating tour amongst the other great Casper facilities.



Be sure to check out the classroom tools we can provide upon request, such as our pioneer lesson plans (<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/NHTIC/educate/plans.html>) and our Education Trunks (<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/NHTIC/educate/trunks.html>) to make sure that your students get the most out of their experience!

**Learn more about opportunities
at the National Historic Trails
Interpretive Center on page 5.**

National Historic Trails Interpretive Center

Take It Outside Initiative

This year is a year of movement to have healthier, stronger children. First Lady Michelle Obama initiated the Let's Move program (<http://www.letsmove.gov/>) to encourage healthier eating and living habits. The Department of the Interior and BLM has taken this one step further to promote the Let's Move Outside initiative (<http://www.letsmove.gov/letsmoveoutside.php>).

Get your students out of the classroom and teach essential curriculum in a meaningful outdoor setting. For ideas on how to take the classroom outside, visit the National Environmental Education Week site at www.eeweek.org/children_and_nature. Lesson plans, grants for outdoor projects, and a plethora of information to meet your classroom needs are at your fingertips. Interpreters at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center or from the BLM Casper office are willing and happy to help you teach the kids outside.

Wyoming Youth Congress on Children and Nature

Slide show at www.trib.com/app/slideshow/YouthCongress/

"I was lucky to be able to participate in the 2010 Congress on Children and Nature," said NHTIC interpreter Stacey Moore. "The child participants' insight into the need for being outside and the method of getting kids outside has helped me perform better as an education coordinator. I look forward to future conversations with the children on how to motivate them to get outside."

In October 2010, the second Wyoming Youth Congress on Children and Nature (http://www.tetonscience.org/index.cfm?id=tlc_calendar&eventID=322249C6-1422-0A0A-8C74A53257ED186B) was hosted at the Teton Science School in Jackson, Wyo. Approximately 70 eighth-grade students from around the state met for a four-day Congress. Their task was to discuss children and nature.

Early on in the congress, participants established the developmental connection between kids and nature. The majority felt that they needed more time outside and less time staring at a screen. Interestingly, the top two reasons quoted for

not spending enough time outside were: fear (adults fearing for them) and school (time spent inside a building and homework taking up their potential outdoor time.) The students did not blame adults for their lack of time outside. Instead they came up with some very constructive suggestions to encourage time outside.

Teachers: There was a consensus from the students across the state that they would like to work with you to get their classes outside. They understand the real hindrances, such as poor behavior, fulfilling the curriculum, and limited planning time, but are willing to help alleviate such barriers. Please seek out the student participants in your district and talk to them about their findings.

Volunteer

The National Historic Trails Interpretive Center thrives on its strong volunteer base. "Without our volunteers, much of our programming, special events and guided educational tours for school children would not be possible. They are an essential part of what we

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accomplish every day," says NHTIC volunteer coordinator, Jason Vlcan.

To become a volunteer, (<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/NHTIC/help.html>) all you need is the willingness to give your time freely to benefit others and our community. Anyone can offer their time. It can be as little or as much as you can spare. You may be working, retired, older, or even a student still. Volunteers come from all walks of life and all sections of our community. Everyone, including you, can make a difference. Will

you be retiring soon and want to stay involved with the schools? Do you have students who love history and would be willing to teach others? Would you like to make a difference in our community? If so, don't hesitate. Give us a call at (307) 261-7783 and ask for Jason. We are very happy to talk to you about the endless possibilities of volunteering!

Quilting Exhibit: Warmth for the Body and Soul ***(March 1-April 30)***

The NHTIC is recognizing Women's History Month with a temporary exhibit, "Quilts: Warmth for the Body and Soul." The exhibit features

over 25 quilts, including traditional and artistic patterns.

Pioneer women carefully sewed together scraps of fabric and pieces of cloth to create quilts which provided warmth for their families on the long trek westward. Quilts were a practical excuse for women to socialize while also being productive. Further, the designs also offered women a way to express themselves with color, cloth and shape. Every quilt has a story. When viewing a quilt, you learn about the maker and as well as the intended recipient. Each quilt in this exhibit has a unique story -- for you to discover.

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objects, audiovisual materials, books and activities that your students can see and touch. The Educator's Guide includes background information, lessons, activities and a bibliography. Topics include Plains Indians, Explorers, Mountain Men, Pioneers, Frontier Army, and Cowboys.

** Meets fourth-grade essential curriculum for social studies and language arts.*

Availability: All Year

Rental: One week, Friday - Thursday. May be checked out for more than one week depending on availability.

Fee: \$2.00 per trunk; cash, check, credit card or LPOs accepted More information and details are available on our website at www.fortcasparwyoming.com. Click on Links for Teachers or School Programs.

Contact Curator of Education Erin Rose by phone at 235-8462 or by email at erose@cityofcasperwy.com to make a reservation.

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the Planetarium may have resources for you. Several of our shows have a strong history component that educators have wanted to share with their students. Dawn of the Space Age chronicles the space race.

Galileo: Power of the Telescope takes a close look at the Renaissance and how our thinking has changed over time. Spirits from the Sky discusses Native American sky lore, specifically of the Pawnee. Legends of the Night Sky: Orion tells the Greek story of Orion in a light-

hearted way. Earth's Wild Ride involves geology and paleontology in its story about our planet.

The Casper Planetarium's fundamental purpose is to serve as a resource for NCSD students and educators. Please take advantage of all we have to offer!