

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Greenwich Historical Society & Bush-Holley House
Museum | Galleries | Library & Archives



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Each year the Greenwich Historical Society hosts thousands of students and teachers at Bush-Holley House, the centerpiece of our beautiful historic site on Cos Cob Harbor. Our interactive, inquiry-based programs give students the opportunity to creatively explore topics and sharpen their critical thinking skills. Each experience is specially designed to complement classroom teaching while providing students and teachers a memorable day full of fun and discovery. Our programs cover topics such as Colonial American history, the American Revolution, slavery in the North, the Industrial Age and the development of American Impressionism. All programs meet state curriculum standards for both Connecticut and New York.

Life in Colonial New England



Recommended Grades: K-2

Length of Program: 1 hour 30 minutes

Program Fee: \$8 per student

This program is designed to be the foundation on which students can build their understanding of what it was like to live in colonial times. Students will rotate between four fun and exciting stations at which they will explore colonial cooking, clothing, games and the rhythm of everyday life.

What did colonial children eat? What games did they play? What chores did they do? All these questions and more will be answered in this introductory program.

Ask a Historian



Recommended Grades: K-8

Length of Program: 45 minutes

Program Fee: \$75 for the first session, \$50 for each additional session.

This program is virtual. An in-person version is available with an additional \$20 travel fee.

What are your students' questions about history? Do they want to know what an 18th century classroom looked like? Or who lived in the oldest house in town? Or do they want to see the evolution of cars? In this program, educators will use photographs taken from the Greenwich Historical Society Archives to answer students' questions about the past.

Student questions must be submitted two weeks before the program takes place.

Monuments in Greenwich

Recommended Grades: 2-6

Length of Program: 45 minutes

Program Fee: \$75 for the first session, \$50 for each additional session. \$20 travel fee for in-person

An online version of this program is available

In this presentation, students will discover the stories behind 15 monuments here in Greenwich. They will learn what a monument is, why we build them and the stories they tell. This program is designed to help students think critically about the act of remembering and explore the history of their hometown by examining the familiar monuments placed across its landscape.

Students will be given a bingo card at the beginning of the program. With this, they can check off monuments they have already seen and be encouraged to visit those they have not.



Sarah and Her Town

Recommended Grades: 3-4

Length of Program: 1 hour 30 minutes

Program Fee: \$8 per student

This Program is an ensured experience for all Public School 3rd Graders in Greenwich

On this tour, students will relive the dramatic events that shaped the lives of the colonial Bush family of the Bush-Holley House. This will include the struggles of being a woman of the time, the lives of the enslaved and the realities of living through the American Revolution.



On-Site Activity: Students will have the chance to learn about the games of colonial children, discover Native American folklore and make their own corn husk doll to take home in our hands-on activity session.

Sarah in the Classroom: This program includes a 45 minute pre-visit component. For this, one of our talented Sarah Bush reenactors will visit the school to tell students the story of her life from childhood to old age.

Sarah's visit to the classroom is part of the ensured experience for all Greenwich Public school 3rd graders. It can be arranged (for an additional \$75) for schools outside the district.



Patriots vs. Loyalists: The American Revolution

Recommended Grades: 5-8

Length of Program: 2 hours

Program Fee: \$8 per student

An online version of this program is available



In our Patriots vs. Loyalist program, students will explore what it was like to live in Greenwich during the American Revolution and just how difficult it was to choose a side.

Before the visit, teachers will be sent a link to a series of educational videos. These videos will include a breakdown of how the Revolutionary War was experienced in Greenwich and recruitment video by both a Patriot and a Loyalist.

During a field trip, students will tour the Bush-Holley House to learn how the Revolutionary War affected the Colonial Bush family and will interact with 250 year old original documents from Greenwich during the time of the Revolution.

The final component for this program is the teacher's choice:

Option A (suggested for 5th & 6th graders): students will be assigned an item commonly used during the American Revolution. They will then use their deductive reasoning skills to determine who made it, who used it and what it used was for. At the end of the session, students will present their findings to the class.

Option B (suggested for 7th & 8th graders): students will be assigned a side, Patriot or Loyalist, and will conduct a debate to determine which side of the Revolution their class will join.

Online Version: Teachers will be sent a link and password to a series of educational videos. These videos will include a breakdown of who the Patriots and Loyalist were, the effect of the Revolutionary War on Greenwich, the Bush family's experience of it and recruitment video by both a Patriot and a Loyalist. A staff member will be available for a 30 minute video call in which they will show students archival documents from the Revolution.



Teachers will be sent scans of the Revolutionary documents to share with their class. They will also be sent our debate scaffolding worksheets to help facilitate debate in their classrooms.

Online Program Fee: \$50 for the videos, \$75 per virtual session

Slavery in Connecticut

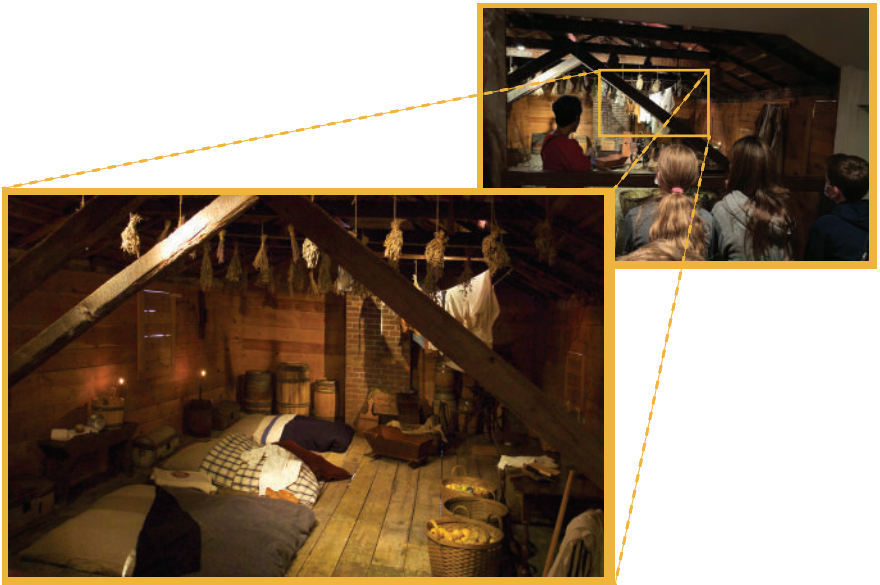
Recommended Grades: 7-12

Length of Program: 2 hours

Program Fee: \$8 per student

This tour is a deep dive into the realities of slavery in Connecticut. It comes with a pre-visit PowerPoint to help orientate students to essential facts about Northern slavery and the language used when we talk about it.

In the Bush-Holley House, students will learn about the lives of Cull and Patience, two of the 15 individuals who were enslaved by the Bush family on our site. Students will go through the daily rituals of Cull and Patience's lives, learn about their family and help preserve their legacies.



In our education center, students will look at the laws that make up the Gradual Emancipation Acts, which ended slavery in our state over a 64-year period. They will also examine primary source materials including censuses, wills, emancipation papers and bills of sale to reconstruct the lives of Candice Bush and her children, Hester and Jack, three more of the 15 enslaved persons who lived on our site.

Through this program, students will gain a deep and profoundly human understanding of what slavery looked like in Connecticut, learn what is like to do primary source research and explore the Connecticut legal system in regards to the abolition of slavery.



Witness STONES

Recommended Grades: 7-12

Time Commitment: Several weeks of dedicated classroom time and a 1.5 hour placement ceremony. Suggested 1.5 hour fieldtrip and 1 hour virtual session with a historian

Program Fee: Varies. \$500 minimum.

Requires curriculum training by the Witness Stones Project. <https://witnessstonesproject.org/>



Are you interested in your class conducting original research to restore the lives and legacies of those enslaved in Greenwich?



Since 2019, the Greenwich Historical Society has collaborated with The Witness Stones Project on this initiative that seeks to teach students about enslaved individuals who lived in their hometowns. Since then, students have researched the lives of and placed memorial Witness Stones for: Cull Bush Sr., Patience and their children: Phillis, Milley, Rose and Cull Bush Jr.; Candice Bush, her son Jack, her daughter Hester Mead; and Charles. Together, we will bear witness to the lives of the estimated 300 enslaved individuals who lived, worked and loved here in Greenwich.



Art Themed Programing

Create Your Own Impression

Recommended Grades: 2-12 (Content scales with age)

Length of Program: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Program Fee: \$8 per student

An online version of this program is available

In this program, students will follow in the footsteps of the Cos Cob Art Colony. This Impressionist art colony, based out of our own Bush-Holley House, was one of several American Impressionist groups that helped shape the art word at the turn of the 20th century.

Students will learn about the Holley family, life in the 1900's, dive into innovative theories of Impressionism and explore the cultural shifts and influences that create artistic movements. Students will also have their chance to paint *en plein air*, just like the Impressionists.

Online Version: Teachers will be sent a link and password to a series of our educational videos. These videos include a virtual tour of the Bush-Holley House with a focus on telling the intertwined stories of the Holley Family and the Cos Cob Art Colony. A member of staff will be available for a 30-minute live Q&A on your preferred platform after the students have watched the videos to answer any questions they might have.

Online Program Fee: \$50 for the videos, \$75 per virtual session



Meeting People in Portraits

Recommended Grades: 2-6

Length of Program: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Program Fee: \$8 per student

In this program, students will view and discuss the collection of portraits in the Bush-Holley House. They will learn to identify artistic techniques and characteristics including pose, expression, gesture and symbolic props to help develop their interpretation of the individual. In the included workshop, students will create their own self-portrait, drawing on the techniques and symbolism they have learned.





Schedule Your Visit Today!

School programs can be scheduled Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. One adult chaperone is required for every 10 students. Due to the size of our historic home, we have a maximum capacity of 50 students at a time. Groups larger than 50 must book additional time slots.

To book one of our exciting programs or create a custom program contact Heather Lodge at hlodge@greenwichhistory.org.

Greenwich
historical society

(203)-869-6899 | greenwichhistory.org | 47 Strickland Rd, Cos Cob