



Photo: Bill Bowen

# REALITY FIELD TRIPS:

an immersion in work, family  
and community life past

You've heard us use the phrase again and again – we bring history to life. But what exactly does that mean? That we have presenters in historical clothing? That we are home to dozens of buildings where important historical events took place? That we have authentic Model Ts and carriages and steam engines that span nearly 150 years of American history?

All true. But honestly, that's only a small part of what we mean.

“Most people, until they get on-site at **The Henry Ford**, do not comprehend the magnitude of our multisite destination and the multilayered immersion experiences we offer,” says Paula Gangopadhyay, director of education at **The Henry Ford**.

“For schoolkids, it brings the curriculum to life.”



Our goal is to re-create, as accurately as possible, the daily lives that Americans lived in the past. But to be American means many different things. So we strive to re-create the lives of people who lived in different eras, in different regions, people of different socioeconomic classes, races, ethnic backgrounds.

It is, we think, a remarkable spectrum of American life.

Through our field trips, we give your students not just an opportunity to observe those lives but to actually step into them, to partake in life as it was lived.

“Our way of making history interesting is by empowering people to make connections in two ways,” says Gangopadhyay. “One is to make them relevant to things that are happening today. The other is by connecting history to their personal lives. If we don’t use both of those strategies, we miss out. And so do the students.”

So we have developed programs that are both personally and historically relevant.

In one corner of *Greenfield Village* is the Daggett Farmhouse. The sturdy, charcoal-colored, wood-frame house stands out from everything around it. Built in 1754 in Connecticut, it is one of the oldest structures in the Village.

But this little corner of the Village is constantly buzzing with activity. Presenters in period dress are busy gardening, cooking meals, preserving foods, spinning yarn, making clothing. For the 21st-century visitor, it offers a riveting insight into the rhythm of life for the Europeans who settled New England.

At Firestone Farm, a short walk down a country lane leads you into the midst of a late-19th-century farm. Birthplace of tire magnate Harvey Firestone, this working farm is a model of Midwestern agrarian life, with massive fields

filled with seasonal crops and – a perennial student favorite – dozens of farm animals, from massive Percheron workhorses to tiny Dark Brahma chickens.

Equally compelling is the One-Room School program. It’s one thing to read a book about how children growing up in rural America in the 19th century studied in one-room schoolhouses. It’s another to step into the shoes of those children. Modern-day students wear 19th-century clothes, play 19th-century games, eat food made from 19th-century recipes and learn lessons using McGuffey readers, slates and slate pencils.

“It’s the sort of program that gives kids a new pair of lenses through which to see, appreciate and love history.” says Gangopadhyay. “It’s the sort of lesson they’ll never forget.” ■

OPPOSITE: Daggett Farmhouse in *Greenfield Village*.  
BELOW: Hermitage Slave Quarters in *Greenfield Village*.  
LEFT: One-Room School program in *Greenfield Village*.



on-site programs

**A Gullah Tale**

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

**FREE with Village admission**

The distinctive Gullah culture and language of the Georgia sea islands preserved many elements of African culture. Experience the inspiring lessons that Mama Nancy's stories and the tales of little John taught to children on the plantation.

**Location:** Greenfield Village  
**Offered:** October 5–28, 2012 (Fri.–Sun.); October 4–27, 2013 (Fri.–Sun.)  
**Program Length:** 20 minutes

**Tales from Huck Finn**

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

**FREE with Village admission**

Meet Mark Twain's most beloved character, Huckleberry Finn, and hear about a few of his memorable adventures in this high-energy, 15-minute, one-man show.

**Location:** Greenfield Village  
**Offered:** May 7–June 8, 2012; May 6–June 7, 2013  
**Program Length:** 15 minutes

**Tally's Tales**

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

**FREE with Village admission**

Tally, the cook at the Susquehanna Plantation, takes a break from her work and shares uplifting songs and stories, including a fun Br'er Rabbit tale with an important message.

**Location:** Greenfield Village  
**Offered:** May 7–June 8, 2012; May 6–June 7, 2013  
**Program Length:** 15 minutes

**One-Room School Program**

SELF-GUIDED ACTIVITY

Your students can time travel by stepping into the shoes of children living in the 1800s. Reserve a day in the rustic Miller or McGuffey schoolhouse. Your class will use McGuffey readers, slates and slate pencils. Teacher Guide is downloadable online at [thehenryford.org/education](http://thehenryford.org/education). It's filled with lesson plan suggestions for what you can do before, during and after your visit.

**Location:** Greenfield Village  
**Offered:** Sept.–October, 2011 & 2012; November 2011 & 2012; Fridays only, Apr. 15–Jun. 15, 2012 & Apr. 15–Jun. 15, 2013  
**Program Length:** Flexible  
**Fee:** \$9.50\* includes Village admission  
**Online Resources:** Teacher Guide

\*Price subject to change.

on-site programs



**Great American Museum Experience: The Ultimate Sleepover**

SELF-GUIDED AND FACILITATED PROGRAM

The Great American Museum Experience is a two-day overnight adventure that includes admission to multiple attractions, meals and accommodation in our Lovett Hall dormitories. For after-hours fun, your students will produce their own 1940s-style radio show and get a crash course in the popular dances of the past.

**Offered:** Oct. 2011 & Jan.–June 2012; Oct. 2012 & Jan.–June 2013  
**Location:** January 1–April 14: *Henry Ford Museum, Ford Rouge Factory Tour and IMAX® Theatre*. April 15–December 16, 2011 & April 15–December 14, 2012: *Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village* and one-day ride pass.  
**Program Length:** Two days, including overnight stay, 2 meals and a snack  
**Fee:** \$86.50\* per person  
\*Price subject to change.

field trip enhancements



**NEW! Family & Community Life**

FIELD TRIP HELPER FOR GREENFIELD VILLAGE

Grades K-12

This exploration tool is designed to help students compare and contrast life in the past with life today.



**History Hunters: Family & Community Life**

SCAVENGER HUNT

**Location:** Henry Ford Museum

- Investigating Generations in Your Place in Time: 20th-Century America

**Location:** Greenfield Village

- Investigating 19th-Century School Life
- Investigating Historic Crafts and Trades
- Investigating Historic Kitchens

Check [thehenryford.org/education](http://thehenryford.org/education) for the latest History Hunters.

classroom resources

**Living Under Enslavement at Hermitage Plantation**

INTERACTIVE MODULE

Step inside the cramped quarters that an enslaved carpenter called home during the years he lived at Georgia's Hermitage Plantation. Click from page to page and explore the artifacts that reveal the ways in which the people who lived here cared for their families, used their skills, preserved African traditions and resisted enslavement.

**Toys**

ONLINE EXHIBIT

Toys are more than fun. Toys share volumes of information about how American life has changed over the decades. Our online exhibit of toys, games and dolls explores how children played in the past and what parents did – or didn't – consider important about their children's playthings. Classroom activities connected to social studies and English language arts are also available.



Visit [thehenryford.org/education/resourcebank.aspx](http://thehenryford.org/education/resourcebank.aspx) for curriculum connections.

TALLY'S TALES

