School and Youth Programs

Our inquiry-based programs use Litchfield’s rich history as a window to explore national historical themes. Using primary sources from our archives and artifact collection, our programs are created to align with the CT Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Frameworks and your classroom, homeschool, or youth group needs.

- Price $5 per student / per program
- Chaperones free
- Minimum group size is 6 students
- One chaperone is required for every 10 students
- All programs last 45 mins - 1 hour
- Reservations are required for all groups and should be made no later than 2 weeks beforehand
- Facilities are wheelchair accessible

To Schedule a Program:
Contact the museum with the program(s), preferred dates and times, and the number of students
EMAIL education@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org or CALL (860) 567-4501
www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org

WE ARE A RESOURCE FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

With over 20,000 objects and 2,500 feet of archival material, there are many stories we can help tell. Call Kate Zullo, Head of Education, to brainstorm programs we can tailor for your classroom.

Examples of other classes we have developed programs for:
- CT History Day Students
- Education Psychology
- Global Studies: Civilizations
- English Literature

COVID-19 AND MASK POLICY

Health and safety of our visitors and staff is our highest priority. Many of our programs can be held in outdoors if necessary.

Indoor Programs: All visitors are required to wear masks and maintain social distancing.

Outdoor Programs: Visitors are encouraged to wear masks or maintain social distancing.
Hands-on History for Elementary Students

Perfect for grades 1-3, students use play and participation to make connections between their lives today and the lives of children in the past. Book individually or together for a fun, hands-on experience. These programs can also be held at your school.

Playing in the Past
What did children do for fun in the 1800s? Learn to play historical games - like graces, rolling hoop, and quoits - and make your own historical game to bring home.

The Early American Classroom
Step into an Early American classroom and experience how students learned in the past with a 1800s lesson.

Washington’s Spies: Uncover the Story of Litchfield’s Benjamin Tallmadge and the Revolution!
Ready for your students to become spies? Combine multiple units to fit your classroom needs and discover how American spies helped win the Revolution.

Spy Skills 1: Codes & Ciphers
To protect written information, Tallmadge used an elaborate code. Students decode one of Tallmadge’s letters and create their own cipher.

Spy Skills 2: Info & Invisible Ink
By 1779, the Culper Spy Ring was using invisible ink to share spy information. After uncovering evidence of invisible ink in Tallmadge’s letters, students will write their own messages in invisible ink.

Heroes of the Revolution Walking Tour
Step back in time on a walking tour of Litchfield’s Historic District. Discover the many ways men, women, and children in town contributed during the Revolution.

Washington’s Spies: The Culper Ring
Using objects from the collection, meet Washington’s spy master, Benjamin Tallmadge, and reenact how the Culper Spy Ring collected information about the British Army. Discover why the Culper Spy Ring was so successful.
Step into History with Walking Tours of Litchfield’s Historic District

Discover the power of place as students are immersed in the historic landscape on one of our themed walked tours.

**Slavery Here: The Life of William Grimes**
Explore CT’s complicated history with slavery through the life of William Grimes, a man who escaped slavery and wrote his autobiography in Litchfield.

**The Beechers in Litchfield**
The Beechers were a family of reformers born in an age of reform. Visit the sites that shaped Harriet, Henry, and their siblings.

Politics and Political Action
Held in America’s first law school, these programs combine civics, government, and history while exploring the creation of our nation and the impact of social and political movements.

**Raising a Nation: America’s First Law School and a Pioneering School for Women**
Take on the identity of students at the Litchfield Law School and the Litchfield Female Academy. Discover the ways politics and society impacted education and how the students would go on to shape America.

**Party Spirit: The Federalist and Anti-Federalists of Litchfield**
Active participation and political debate are at the heart of American democracy. Engage in political discourse as you learn how the Litchfield Law School brought together future leaders from all political viewpoints.

**Ballots for Both: the Fight for the 19th Amendment**
Women and men in Litchfield and across American fought for decades to win the right to vote for women. Analyze letters and flyers from the archives to explore how grassroots movements can change America.
Litchfield Historical Society School Program Details

Be A Better Historian
Grades: Elementary, Middle, High
Themes: Research Skills, Databases, Analyzing Historic Materials
Time Period: 1700s-Present

Museums 101
Grades: Elementary, Middle
Themes: Museum Literacy, Community, Communication
Time Period: Present

Playing in the Past
Grades: Elementary
Themes: Children’s Lives, Play and Recreation
Time Period: Colonial, 19th c.
This program is also offered OFF SITE.

The Early American Classroom
Grades: Elementary
Themes: Education, Community Building
Time Period: Colonial, 19th c.
This program is also offered OFF SITE.

Settlement Patterns: Maps and America
Grades: Middle
Themes: Settlement, Maps, Westward Expansion, Travel
Time Period: 1600s-1720s

Washington’s Spies: The Culper Ring & Spy Skills
Grades: Elementary, Middle
Themes: Revolution, Espionage, Communication
Time Period: 1770s-1780s

Raising a Nation
Grades: Middle, High
Themes: Higher Education, Law, Nation building, Women and Society
Time Period: 1790s-1830s

Party Spirit: The Federalist and The Anti-Federalists
Grades: Middle, High
Themes: Political Parties, Media, Nation Building
Time Period: 1790s-1850s

Mock Trials at the Law School
  The Amistad
    Grades: Middle, High
    Themes: Slavery, Law, Foreign Relations
    Time Period: 1830s
  Prudence Crandall
    Grades: Middle, High
    Themes: Race, Law, Activism
    Time Period: 1830s

Hour of Conflict: The Civil War
Grades: Middle, High
Themes: Civil War, Technology and Communication, Home
Time Period: 1860s

Rightfully Hers: the 19th Amendment
Grades: Middle, High
Themes: Suffrage, Grassroots Activism, Communication
Time Period: 1870s-1920s

Walking Tours of Historic District
  Heroes of the Revolution
    Grades: Elementary, Middle
    Themes: Revolution, Community cooperation, Perspectives on war
    Time Period: 1770s-1780s
  Slavery Here: The Life of William Grimes
    Grades: Middle, High
    Themes: Slavery, Self-determination, Writing
    Time Period: 1820s
  The Beechers in Litchfield
    Grades: Middle, High
    Themes: Reform, Abolitionism, Religion
    Time Period: 1810s-1820s

For more information or to schedule a program, contact
Kate Zullo, Head of Education
EMAIL education@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org or CALL (860) 567-4501