

## Introduction

Midway Village Museum's Interactive Local History program will engage grade school students in a hands-on learning experience related directly to life in Northern, IL from its early settlement days to the present. Our Program is an award-winning concept with a curriculum focus on the primary social studies unit of community.

The unique local program is rich in history and structured with four learning opportunities for the students meeting the Illinois Learning Standards. Instruction for the program is provided by trained interpreters dressed in period clothing.

### A Program For Teachers

This outreach program is designed to solve the teachers' challenge of not enough time to teach local history in the classroom. The program is intended to:

- Provide instruction in local history through four distinct but complementary programs
- Create hands-on learning opportunities using authentic artifacts or reproductions
- Bring a field trip literally right to the school (The challenge of traveling off-site is eliminated)
- Provide trained interpreters teaching and reinforcing the classroom lessons
- Support different learning techniques such as reading, hands-on activities and music
- Provide pre- and post-visit curricular materials for teachers to use
- Each child will complete a simple project to help the student remember the lesson

## About Our

### Award-Winning Museum

Midway Village Museum is Rockford's history museum. A private, non-profit organization, it is governed by a Board of Directors and began operations in 1968 and opened its first museum building in 1974.

At the same time the organization began work on an outdoor museum village, now called Midway Village. Today, the museum building is 50,000 square feet with nearly 100,000 artifacts in the collections. Midway Village has grown to 26 structures to create a village representing 1900 America. Among the numerous awards, Midway Village Museum is honored to have received national awards from the American Association for State and Local History for innovative educational programming.

### Our Mission

Midway Village Museum, the best institution for collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of the Rockford region, is committed to educating and enriching our community by providing state-of-the-art exhibits, programs, and events.



Midway Village Museum  
Rockford's  
HISTORY MUSEUM

6799 Guilford Rd. ■ Rockford Illinois 61107  
(815) 397-9112 (815) 397-9156 fax  
[www.midwayvillage.com](http://www.midwayvillage.com)

# Interactive Local History Outreach



Midway Village Museum  
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## Program Concepts

Community, Location & Development, Immigrants and Culture, Transportation, Jobs and Economics

The four program concepts last approximately 90 minutes and interpreters bring hands-on objects and materials for the students to use. Each program will incorporate time for children to try objects or practice new skills.

While each of the four programs will be strand-alone, it is recommended each class schedule at least two sessions, i.e. two topics, for a well-rounded complete experience. Keeping in mind that teachers can choose programs in no particular order. The program topics are as follows:



### Creating Community

In this unit students will learn the importance of a community working together such as:

- Who and what makes up a community
- How a community is designed from surveying (math skills) to necessary buildings
- Practice map skills and identify home and school directions using hands-on materials



The lesson will include historical maps of Northern Illinois, measuring tools, graphing activities, books, vocabulary, neighborhood mosaics and crafts.

### Local Life:

The key component of this unit is how Northern IL was founded and by whom. The students will learn:

- The importance of the key historic community leaders of several Northern, Il., communities.
- The Rock River as an important local resource
- Distances and how long it took to get from here to there as well as making a local history Mandela using circular geometry
- Through historical photographs, students realize how much Northern Illinois has changed over the years

The lesson will include primary source documents, photographs, artifacts, timeline activities, books, journals, vocabulary words, crafts and music of the day.

### Many Faces of Illinois: Immigrants and Culture

This unit will go from early Illinois to present time comparing how the immigrant experience has changed and how it remains the same. The lessons will include:

- Various groups of immigrants who came to Northern Illinois
- Why people chose this area and the types of jobs available
- Famous Illinoisans



- Many immigrant customs and traditions that have become the norm for us today
  - The Orphan Trains
- The lesson will include primary source documents, immigrant artifacts, books, tables and crafts, music, immigrant crafts and vocabulary skills.



How did I get here and what will I do now: A Look at Transportation,

### Jobs and Economics

Students will learn about different forms of transportation and how it affected the way local people lived in the past. The students will learn about:

- Transportation on land, water and in the air
- How railroads brought about time synchronization
- The effect of transportation on industries from agriculture to today's service industries
- How we have used music to express ourselves in relation to labor



This lesson will include photographs of various local industries and laborers to evaluate and discover what we learned from them, work songs, artifacts, time charts and vocabulary skills.

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ROCKFORD  
COLLEGE  
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**Cost:**  
\$120 per classroom;  
per visit

**Reservations:**  
To make a reservation, please call Mark Herman, Curator of Education at 815-397-9112, ext. 105, or email [mark.herman@midwayvillage.com](mailto:mark.herman@midwayvillage.com). If you have curriculum questions, contact Lydia Cassinelli, Educator at 815-397-9112, ext. 106, or email [lydia.cassinelli@midwayvillage.com](mailto:lydia.cassinelli@midwayvillage.com).

