

Welcome to the Museum of Florida History!

Opened in 1977, the Museum of Florida History (MFH) collects, preserves, exhibits, and interprets evidence of past and present cultures in Florida, and promotes knowledge and appreciation of this heritage. As the state history museum, it focuses on artifacts and eras unique to Florida's development and the roles that Floridians have played in national and global events. Through exhibits, educational programs, research, and collections, the Museum reflects the ways in which people have shaped and reacted to their natural and cultural environments.

Exhibits

Explore Florida's extraordinary past through nearly 30,000 square feet of permanent exhibits.

- Florida's First People
- Forever Changed: *La Florida*, 1513-1821
- Spanish Shipwrecks
- Florida in the Civil War
- 20th Century Forestry and Agriculture
- Early Transportation and Tourism
- Florida Remembers World War II
- Highlights Gallery

Learn about temporary exhibits at www.museumoffloridahistory.com/exhibits/current.cfm

Tours and Programming

- **Self-Guided Tour for Groups.** No charge, but donations suggested.

Educators will offer a brief orientation to the Museum and behavior expectations.

- **Artifact Adventure** (25 maximum. Minimum of 1 chaperone per 5 students. 1 hour); all ages, \$1.00 per person, no charge for chaperones. An adapted version of this program is available upon request.

Educators will offer a brief orientation to the Museum and behavior expectations. Students will tour the Museum while handling artifact replicas. The educator will lead a discussion on what the objects mean in the context of the history of Florida and the story told through the exhibits.

- **Copper Commodities** (25 people maximum. 1 hour); grades 4-12, \$1.00 per person, no charge for chaperones.

Following an introduction to the Museum and a showing of the orientation film, learn about Mississippian trade routes and mound building communities while exploring the Museum's exhibit: Florida's First People. A museum educator will lead the group in a trading activity and simple craft while highlighting relevant artifacts.

- **Highlights of the Museum tour** (25 people maximum. 1 hour); all ages, \$1.00 per person, no charge for chaperones.

Following an introduction to the Museum and a showing of the orientation film, guests will take a guided tour through several Museum galleries. After the guided tour, groups are encouraged to explore the galleries at their own pace.

- **My symbols, my state, my Florida** (25 people maximum. 1 hour); grades 1-4, \$1.00 per person, no charge for chaperones.

Following an introduction to the Museum and a showing of the orientation film, an educator will lead the group in a presentation and activity focusing on Florida symbols. Several official state symbols will be introduced and groups will discuss changes in the State Seal. Following this, students will create their own seals to represent their group.

- **Survival: Florida** (25 people maximum. 1 hour); grades K-6, \$1.00 per person, no charge for chaperones.

Following an introduction to the Museum and a showing of the orientation film, students will touch and analyze objects and artifacts to learn about Florida's first peoples. Following this, students will engage in several activities to explore how natural resources were used to create tools.

Location and Hours

The Museum is located on the ground floor of the R. A. Gray Building at 500 South Bronough Street, in downtown Tallahassee.

Monday–Friday: 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sunday and state holidays: Noon–4:30 p.m.

Parking

Car parking is available in the garage immediately south of the R. A. Gray Building, accessible by the ramp on the left side of Bronough Street. Visitors must go to the gift shop in the Museum lobby to receive a free parking token. Bus parking is available on the west side of the Capitol Complex on Duval Street or in the parking lot on the west side of the R. A. Gray Building, accessible from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Florida’s History Shop

Our retail shop specializes in Florida-related books, toys, memorabilia, art, and other items. Souvenirs can be pre-ordered online at www.floridashistoryshop.com or by calling (850) 245-6396.

Dining Options

Lunches and coolers can be stored in the Museum lobby while tours or programs are underway. An outdoor picnic area on the Museum mezzanine accommodates about 30 children.

Manners

You can help to preserve artifacts in the Museum for generations to come by respecting objects and other guests. FOOD, BEVERAGES, GUM, RUNNING, SHOUTING, and RECKLESS BEHAVIOR are not permitted in the Museum. Visitors who violate these rules will be asked to leave.

- **Signage and Museum staff will indicate objects that can be touched.** Everything else can only be observed, admired, and discussed.
- **Photography is allowed** except in areas where “No Photography” signs are posted.
- **Students and their chaperones must stay together at all times.**

Chaperones

Museum staff are not available to monitor students; this is the responsibility of group leaders and chaperones. A minimum of one chaperone for every seven students is required to ensure student safety.

- Student groups of thirty or more should be pre-organized into teams of ten to fifteen children with two chaperones per group. Teams will visit different areas of the Museum at different times.
- A chaperone’s responsibilities include supervising his or her team, helping students to observe behavior rules, encouraging learning by pointing out interesting artifacts, asking the students questions, and staying with team members at all times, especially in Grandma’s Attic and the gift shop.

When You Arrive

- Unload busses in the passenger loading area in front of the R. A. Gray Building on Bronough Street.
- Chaperones lead students down the outside stairs to the Museum’s mezzanine entrance, then into the Museum Theater if it is available. Museum staff will greet you in the lobby.
- The group leader checks in with museum staff at the Museum Information Desk to record the group name, number of children and adults.
- Food and drink are to be stored on the carts in front of the gift shop.
- If a program fee is applicable, the group leader goes to the gift shop to pay with cash or a check.

Please Keep in Mind

- If you plan to visit several sites in one day, allow time not only for students’ educational experiences, but also for travel and shopping.
- If you know that you will be late, contact MFH education staff at (850) 245-6400. Guided tours or programs may be shortened or canceled if groups are not on time.
- Tallahassee is in the Eastern Time zone.
- Museum staff need to be informed in advance if special assistance is required.