

2023-2024 Education Offerings



SEWARD
HOUSE MUSEUM

Greetings!

Greetings from the Seward House Museum in Auburn, New York! As we delve into the school year, I wanted to take a moment to remind you of all the free and cost-effective services that the Seward House offers to schools in our region. We hope to enrich the experiences of our local students while also supporting teachers and administration. Take a moment to browse through the programming options we provide in the following pages. Let's collaborate!

-Kate Grindstaff,
Education and Outreach Coordinator



Education
Department

General Information



SEWARD HOUSE MUSEUM

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-5PM
Closed January and February

Guided tours occur on the hour. Advance reservations are available through our website: sewardhouse.org. Visitors without pre-booked tickets will be admitted as capacity allows.

CONTACT

Kate Grindstaff

Address: 33 South St. Auburn, NY 13021

Telephone: (315) 252-1283

Email: outreach@sewardhouse.org



SEWARD
HOUSE MUSEUM

Field Trips

We invite students of all ages to visit the Seward House, either in-person or virtually. The Seward House's admission rate of \$6/student for groups of over 10 is designed to keep this experience within reach for all students and schools. Field trips must be reserved at least two weeks in advance. Teachers and bus drivers receive complimentary admission. One chaperone is offered complimentary admission per every 10 students. Field trips may be paired with Hand's-On History workshops in the Museum. Regular field trips typically last one hour.



Specialty Tours

Similar to our regular field trips, the Seward House also offers in-person and virtual tours to school groups that focus on a specific topic, such as the Seward's connection to Tubman and the Underground Railroad, Lincoln and the Civil War, or the Women's Rights Movement. A full list of options can be found under the Education tab of our website: sewardhouse.org. Please contact Kate for scheduling all group tours and educational programming..



SEWARD
HOUSE MUSEUM

Hands On History

The Seward House is always excited to visit classrooms in person to present on a subject or provide any of our Hands-On History experiences. These tactile explorations of artifacts and their associated stories are perfect for a more kinesthetic learning experience, or as a supplement to an upcoming field trip. Students learn the skills of museum professionals in handling objects and interrogating them for meaning. This activity will add approximately 30 minutes to a field trip. More information on these programs can be found on our website.



Fanny Seward Story

We also offer virtual interactive programs, such as our Fanny Seward Story site: fannysewardstory.org. The Fanny Seward Story site's purpose is to engage 4th-5th graders with a time in history that may be hard for them to connect with in other ways. The site offers an examination of Fanny's historical setting and experiences, contextual discussion questions, primary source analyses, visuals of collections objects, a helpful vocabulary list, and interactive activities that allow for further critical thinking.

Lesson Plans/Resource Kits

The Seward House also offers lesson plans and resource kits designed for students in grades 3-8. These resource kits are broken into three lessons: pre-visit, the tour, and post-visit, which allows teachers to check for understanding, meet state and Common Core standards, and prepare their students for the field trip itself. These can be explored on our website.



SEWARD
HOUSE MUSEUM

Junior Detectives

Mr. Seward's Junior Detective League tour is designed especially for 4-6 year olds. Led by retired teachers, this unique experience offers children the chance to explore the first floor of the museum following clues that lead to distinctive artifacts. Once they discover the artifact (and check it off their list), junior gumshoes are told brief stories about each historical object. When all the special objects have been found, a prize and an award await them from the Seward family. This 30 minute tour promises to be an exciting activity that will open the world of museums to your child, making it an inspiring adventure. Perfect for pre-school groups, families, and scouts.



Literacy Initiative

The Seward House is considering a literacy initiative program entitled "Fanny's Young Readers." Designed for children ages 5-8 who are learning to read, these after-school guided exercises explore reading level appropriate, historical stories. Fanny's own fairy tales and early readers will be used to encourage historical interest as well as reading comprehension skills. If this is of interest to teachers, please contact Kate Grindstaff.



SEWARD
HOUSE MUSEUM



Passport to History (Auburn Only)

This city-wide program offers fourth grade students the chance to experience eight incredible historic and cultural sites in Auburn: the Seward House Museum, the Cayuga Museum of History and Art, the Schweinfurth Art Center, the Equal Rights Heritage Center, Seymour Library, the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park and Home, Auburn Memorial City Hall, and Willard Chapel. In the spring, we invite all fourth graders to visit these sites for free, first with their class on a field trip, and then on their own time with their families. Introductory materials, a virtual resource kit, a website, and in-class visits will be offered to support the educational and inclusive objectives of this program.



Summer Camp

In the hot summer month of July, the Seward House Museum, Cayuga Museum of History and Art, Seymour Library, and the National Park Service collaboratively present their annual Hands On History Summer Camp. Students ages 8-10 can anticipate a week-long day camp full of history tours, tea parties, archaeology digs, movie making, and more! This program is not directly linked to schools. Scholarships for attendance are available upon request.



SEWARD
HOUSE MUSEUM

National History Day

The Seward House acts as the Finger Lakes regional coordinator for the National History Day contest. This multi-month research and presentation process, which is initially cultivated at the classroom or individual level, will end with a regional and state contest in March and April, respectively. If you are interested in introducing your students to this experience, please contact Kate Grindstaff. While it is a labor-intensive project for students, it acts as a great supplement to history curriculum and can greatly build students' critical think, problem solving, research, and reading comprehension skills. Seward House staff are highly invested in building up this program in our region and will make themselves available to students for assistance and mentoring. 6-12 grade students can participate. This opportunity is open to students in Cayuga, Wayne, Yates, Seneca, and Ontario counties. For more information, please visit www.nhd.org.



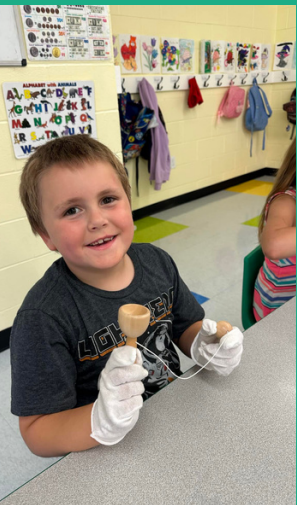
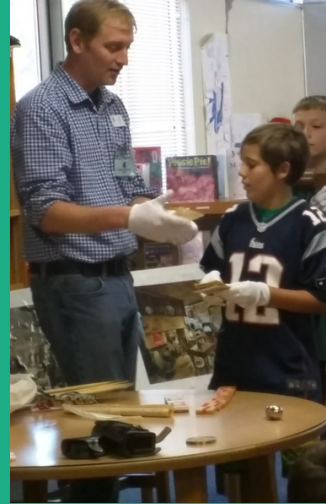
Teen Volunteering/Shadowing

We have volunteering opportunities for teen students at the Seward House Museum! Volunteers gain valuable work experience as they help staff the Information Desk on Saturdays and during the summer. Teen volunteers also assist staff with education programs during the summer months.

Student interested in pursuing a future in a museum profession are also welcome to participate in our career shadowing opportunities.



SEWARD
HOUSE MUSEUM



SEWARD
HOUSE MUSEUM