SPRING 2022 EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP FOR YOUR STUDENTS
thumboctagonbarn.org

School Tours 2022 at Thumb Octagon Barn, Gagetown - an educational field trip for students, preschool through 8th grade, plus classes from high school/Intermediate School District Tech programs - will be held during the school day on Wednesday, May 11th, Thursday, May 12th, and Friday, May 13th. Cost is $2.00 donation fee for each student and each chaperone attending. There will be over 25 stations available for learning/exploration. Theme for 2022 is ‘The House/The Home - 100 Years Old!’

Educational learning stations planned are: Theme Tent, Tour of the House, Introduction to Barn/Site, Live Farm Animals, Barn Loft Museum, Children’s Story, Cora Purdy’s Diaries, Folk Music Instruments, Live Honey Bees, Dairy Milking Station, Chick/Egg Hatching, Garage/Vintage Cars/Trucks & Memorabilia, Powerhouse, Vintage Medicine, Children’s Activity Area, Old Time Music Sing A Long, One Room School House, School House Museum, Grain Elevator, Grist Mill, Sugar Shack/Syrup Evaporator, Working Sawmill, Sawmill Museum, Blacksmith Shop, Cider Press, Goat Care & Milking, Souvenirs, plus Tractor Shuttle Rides! We will be collaborating with Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, formerly Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and other organizations to provide additional educational information on site for the students.

Guided tours for 2022 School Tours begin at 8:30 AM each day – Wednesday, May 11th, Thursday, May 12th, & Friday, May 13th – with last tours starting at 1 PM. Most guided tours are 4.5 hours, but shorter tours or longer tours can be scheduled to meet needs of the students’ ages and their daily schedules. Cost is $2.00 fee donation for each student and each chaperone attending, collected the day of tour. There will be 25+ educational stations available for the students; a month prior to attending educators will choose which stations they especially wish their students to visit based on students’ age and interests. Due to time and the number of stations available, students will not be able to visit every station, but educators may sign up for 2 days in order for their students to visit all available stations.

School Tours Mission Statement: Today...Everyday...Educating...Improving...Working...To Save History For Tomorrow’s Future!
The theme for 2022 is ‘The House/The Home - 100 Years Old!’ The House is the actual building and The Home is the place where people/family lives. At the Thumb Octagon Barn site The House was completed in 1922 - 100 years ago! Students will be able to see and learn how The House was built in 1922 and how it became The Home. With the extensive restoration of The House done over the last twenty-five years, today it is like walking into The Home - built for James and Cora Purdy and two daughters - in the early 1920's!

The House was built with fifteen rooms on the first and second floors, an attic, plus a full basement with five rooms. There are eight bedrooms and three bathrooms that are original to The House. This wood structure building was built with lumber, tools and equipment from the 1920's - much of which will be demonstrated.

Cora Purdy kept 59 years of wonderful diaries - from 1895 to 1954 - which have been extremely valuable in documenting the The House/The Home and other events through the years that happened at the Thumb Octagon Barn site and rural Michigan. The James and Cora Purdy family spent their first night in The Home, - 6948 Richie Road, Gagetown, Michigan - on May 19th, 1922.

School Tours 2022 is back after an interruption for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ‘Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn’ will continue to follow the policies of the local health department to uphold the needed practices for the health of the visitors and volunteers. Plus, we have take the ‘Pure Michigan Pledge’ to be safe. In September 2021, the ‘Friends’ held Fall Family Days 2021, which proved to be safe and successful. We have a proven track record; we are thinking ‘BEYOND NORMAL!’
Requested is 1 chaperone for every 8 students; more chaperones are welcome! Tours are limited to 450 students per day. Due to children’s allergy needs, NO Food is sold on site; students/chaperones bring sack lunches/beverages to eat in designated areas. Port-a-johns are available. Dress for the weather – 2022 School Tours are ‘a go’ no matter the weather. In 2019, over 1,200 students attended from eight counties!

Note: Due to School Tours 2020 and 2021 having to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, students who would have normally attended as apart of their yearly regular class field trip have missed out on their class visit to the Thumb Octagon Barn School Tours! This would be good time to discuss with other colleagues about bringing several grade levels together this year.

Register today on the website:  thumboctagonbarn.org; click on ‘2022 School Tours & Registration,’ fill out registration form and submit. Contact Diane Rapson Gabil, chairperson, to answer any questions/concerns you may have. (989-392-1080; email: drapsongabil@chartermi.net)