

SPRING 2023 EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP FOR YOUR STUDENTS



thumboctagonbarn.org

School Tours 2023 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 10th, Thursday, May 11th, and Friday, May 12th. Cost is \$2.00 donation fee for each student and each chaperone attending. There will be over 25 stations available for learning/exploration/interests of students of all grades. Theme for 2023 is 'Farm Animals.'

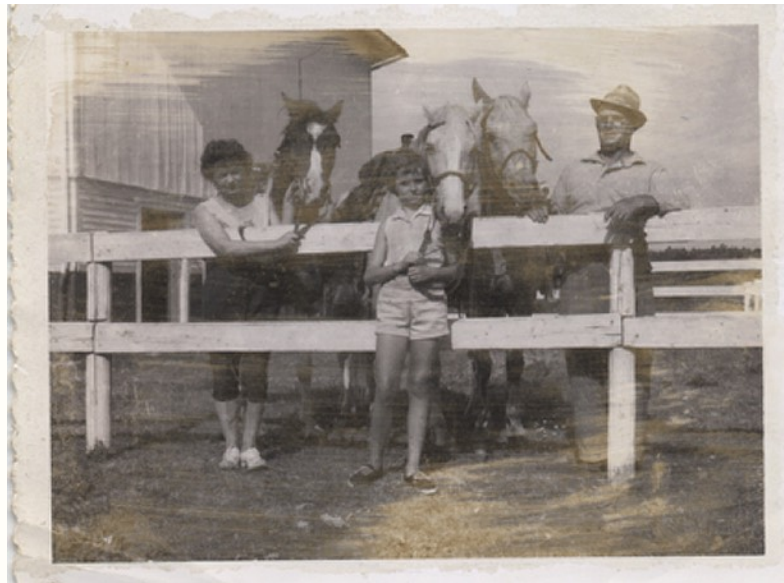
Educational learning stations planned are: History of the Barn/Site, Working Sawmill, Sawmill Museum, Garage/Vintage Cars/Trucks & Memorabilia, Powerhouse, Blacksmith Shop, Cider Press, Live Farm Animals, Chick/Egg Hatching, Grain Elevator, Grist Mill, Sugar Shack/Syrup Evaporator, Barn Loft Museum, Cora Purdy's Diaries, Folk Music Instruments, Live Honey Bees, Dairy Milking Station, Vintage Medicine, Theme Tent, Tour of the House, Children's Activity Area, Old Time Music Sing A Long, One Room School House, School House Museum, Souvenirs, Children's Story, 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 students of all ages.

School Tours Mission Statement: Today...Everyday...Educating...Improving... Working...To Save History For Tomorrow's Future!

The James and Cora Purdy owned the farm - 6948 Richie Road, Gagetown, Michigan - for many years. Cora Purdy kept 59 years of wonderful diaries -

from 1895 to 1954 - which have been extremely valuable in documenting what happened on the farm site throughout all seasons during their years living on the farm.

The theme for 2023 is 'Farm Animals.' In the early 1900's all the animals of the farm provided food for the family or for income and/or helped work the farm.



This would allow for family farms to be self-sustaining or self-reliant. Throughout the year, all the farm animals needed to be housed, fed, and cared for to remain healthy for work, food, income, etc.

Springtime usually meant new babies on the farm. The students will see, smell, touch, and hear all different kinds of farm animals! We are planning on having horses/colts, cows/calves, pigs/piglets, chickens/chicks, goats/kids, rabbits/kits, cats/kittens, dogs/puppies, plus maybe more!



Guided tours for 2023 School Tours begin at 8:30 AM each day – Wednesday, May 10th, Thursday, May 11th, & Friday, May 12th – 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, interests, and curriculum. 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.

Register today on the website: thumboctagonbarn.org; click on '2023 School Tours & Registration,' fill out registration form and submit. Cost is \$2.00 donation fee for each student and each chaperone attending. There will be over 25 stations available for learning/exploration for students preschool through 8th grade, plus classes from high school/Intermediate School District Tech programs. Contact Diane Rapson Gabil, chairperson, to answer any questions/concerns you may have. (989-392-1080; email: drapsongabil@chartermi.net)

Requested is 1 chaperone for every 8 students; more chaperones are welcome! Tours are limited to 450 students per day. Due to children's allergies & 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 – 2023 School Tours are 'a go' no matter the weather. In 2022, about 1,200 students attended from eight counties!

Note: Due to COVID-19 restrictions School Tours 2020 and 2021 were not held; students who would have normally attended those years, as apart of their yearly regular class field trip, missed out on attending Thumb Octagon Barn School School Tours! This would be good time to discuss with your other colleagues about bringing several grade levels together this year. Hope to see you and your students at the Barn in 2023!