

SPRING 2025 EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP FOR YOUR STUDENTS



thumboctagonbarn.org

School Tours 2025 at Thumb Octagon Barn, 6948 Richie Road, Gagetown 48735 - 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 14th, Thursday, May 15th, and Friday, May 16th. School Tours 2025 begin at 8:30 AM each day, 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. Theme for School Tours 2025 is 'Then & Now - See The Changes!' Cost is \$2.00 donation fee for each student and each chaperone attending.

There will be 20+ stations available for learning/exploration/interests of students of all grades. Theme for 2025 is 'Then & Now - See The Changes!' Educational learning stations planned are: History of the Barn/Site, Working Sawmill, Sawmill Museum, Powerhouse, Blacksmith Shop, Cider Press, Live Farm Animals, Chick/Egg Hatching, Grain Elevator, Grist Mill, Sugar Shack/Syrup Evaporator, Barn Loft Museum, Dulcimers & Other Folk Music Instruments, Live Honey Bees, Dairy Milking Station, Vintage Medicine, Tour of the House, Children's Activity Area, Old Time Music Sing-A-Long, One Room School House, School House Museum, Rope Making, Souvenirs plus Tractor Shuttle Rides! The Theme area - 'Then & Now - See The Changes!' - will be showcasing equipment/tools. etc. used in the early 1920's and today on the farm, the house, the school, and other stations on site - including the cost differences, \$\$\$ - plus other topics! We are 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.

A couple of months prior to School Tours 2025, educators will choose which stations they wish their students to attend 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.

Requested is 1 chaperone for every 8 students; more chaperones are welcome! Tours are limited to approximately 400 students per day. Due to children's allergies & other issues, NO Food is sold on site. Students and chaperones bring sack lunches/ beverages to eat in designated areas. Port-a-johns are available. Dress for the weather – 2025 School Tours are 'a go' no matter the weather. About 1,100 students attended School Tours 2024 from eight counties!

Educators: register today on the website: thumboctagonbarn.org; click on '2025 School Tours & Registration,' fill out registration form and submit. Cost is \$2.00 donation fee for each student and each chaperone attending; cash/check/credit card collected the day of the tour.

School Tours Mission Statement:

Today...Everyday...Educating...Improving...Working...To Save History For Tomorrow's Future!

Any questions/concerns, please contact Diane Rapson Gabil, chairperson.
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