



Erie County History Center

Voices from Erie County History

What is included in the exhibit *Voices from Erie County History*?

The Erie County History Center is the headquarters of the Erie County Historical Society. It houses administrative offices, the ECHS Library and Archives, the office of the Erie Society for Genealogical Research, a gift shop, the main exhibit gallery, and a temporary exhibit room. The main gallery currently features *Voices from Erie County History*, a semi-permanent exhibit presenting selective views of Erie County history from pre-settlement to the 21st century.

The temporary exhibit room is attached to the main exhibit gallery. Displays in this room change regularly. Please call (814) 454-1813 for current information.

Where is the Erie County History Center located?

The Erie County History Center is located in the heart of downtown Erie at 417 State Street. The museum is less than five minutes from the Bayfront Highway. If traveling North, follow Interstate 79 to the City of Erie. Follow I-79 to the Bayfront Highway. (I-79 becomes the Bayfront Highway.) Travel the Bayfront Highway to State Street. Turn right onto State Street and continue to the intersection of Fourth and State Streets. The History Center is visible on the left side of the street. Parking is available in the rear of the building. (Parking access roads are located on both Fourth and Fifth Streets.) Metered street parking is also available.

If traveling East or West, follow Interstate 90 to the Bayfront Highway Extension exit. This is also the Penn State Behrend exit. Travel the Bayfront Extension to State Street. From this point on, follow the directions listed above.

For additional directions, please contact the Erie County Historical Society at (814)454-1813.

What can I expect from ECHS programs?

This program utilizes primary resources and artifacts to explore Erie County's heritage and history. Topics of discussion include the Erie Indians, Forts Presque Isle and LeBeouf, 19th and 20th century industry, and much, much more. Activities are adapted for grades K-12 and adult.

Many of our programs are interactive. Students and chaperones are encouraged to participate during group discussions and activities. Questions are always welcomed.

This program satisfies the following state standards: 8.1.3A,B & D, 8.2.3B-D, 8.3.3C & D, 8.1.6A,B & D, 8.2.6A-D, 8.3.6B-D, 8.1.9A,B & D, 8.2.9A-D, 8.3.9B-D, 8.1.12A,B & D, 8.2.12A-D, 8.3.12C & D

How do we get the most out of our visit?

Studies show that students learn more from a field trip or activity if provided a basic schedule of events prior to the field trip or activity. Be sure to give your students a general outline of their visit. Provide times for lunch, restroom breaks, departures and returns. Students who are well-aware of the day's schedule are less likely to interrupt the

program and concentrate better on the information being presented. Visit preparation allows teachers, students, and chaperones to get the most from this educational experience.

In preparing for your field trip, give your students a purpose for the visit. Give your students specifics on what to look for, experience, and learn.

It is important for groups to arrive on time. Upon arrival, ECHS staff will meet your group at the front door of the Erie County History Center. Groups of 25 students or more are often divided into smaller groups to allow for a more enriching, educational experience. Teachers are encouraged to divide larger groups into smaller groups of 15 or less prior to arrival.

Review museum rules and regulations in the classroom. The following is a list of rules to share with students and chaperones.

- 1. Do not touch the collections. Even clean fingers leave fingerprints!**
- 2. Running is not permitted inside the museum.**
- 3. Students are asked to remain with their group at all times.**
- 4. It is important to respect museum staff, teachers, chaperones, and fellow students when they are speaking.**
- 5. Smoking, eating, and drinking are not permitted inside the building.**

How do we go about recording our visit?

Photography is permitted in the exhibit areas for non-commercial, not-for-profit purposes. Teachers and students are welcome to document group visits.

In order to remember the visit, and to use what was learned, we suggest creating a bulletin board or display in the classroom or school hallway. Students may contribute to the display photographs, drawings, written responses, etc. Create your very own exhibit!