

School Tours

School Tours generally last one hour and 30 minutes. This first hour is spent touring the museum and the final 30 minutes include a hands-on activity or craft. Each tour can be geared for a different age group and meet specific state standards.

Settling Elkhart County: Grades K-12

Life During the Industrial Revolution: Grades K-12

Regional Native Americans: Grades 3-12

History stations are offered as an alternative to the traditional museum tour. Students are divided into groups and rotate through themed stations for a hands-on, in-depth approach to history. Some of our station offerings include early farming techniques, barn raisings, the one room schoolhouse, ethnic studies, and pioneer life. Grades K-6.

Student fee: \$1.00 / Elkhart County \$2.00 / Out-of-County

Inquiries or Registration

For more information or to register for museum activities, please contact Rebecca Oestreich at 574.848.4322 or rebecca@elkhartcountyparks.org

* Indicates programs that require pre-registration for participation.

School tours will need to register with the Elkhart County Parks at 574.535.6458.

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you interested in becoming more involved with the museum? Opportunities are available to help with museum operations, school tours, collection care, workshops, and events. Volunteering at museums provide a wonderful opportunity for continuing education!

Please check the following

My/our membership is new renew

Please select membership level

<input type="radio"/> 3-year family / household	\$45.00
<input type="radio"/> 3-year individual	\$30.00
<input type="radio"/> 1-year family / household	\$15.00
<input type="radio"/> 1-year individual	\$10.00

I would like to make a contribution over and above the amount checked to help support the Elkhart County Historical Society and Museum.

Check enclosed (payable to the Elkhart County Historical Society).

\$ _____ Membership Total

\$ _____ Contribution Total

\$ _____ Total Enclosed

New Member Registration

Historical Society Membership Benefits

- ◆ Unlimited free admission to adult and youth classes
- ◆ Discounts on all museum sponsored bus trips
- ◆ Invitation to members only gallery openings
- ◆ Quarterly newsletter of the Historical Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (home): _____

Email: _____

Complete and mail to:

Elkhart County Historical Society and Museum
P.O. Box 434 / Bristol, IN 46507



ELKHART COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM
304 WEST VISTULA STREET
BRISTOL, INDIANA 46507
574.848.4322

Museum Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., closed Sunday - Monday (starts 1.1.09)

Classes for Adults

Researching Your Home

Thursday, January 15th
7:00pm – 8:00pm

Become a “house detective” by learning the secrets of your home’s past through property records, photographs, and other primary sources. Museum Director Nick Hoffman will lead the program.

Reverse Glass Painting*

Thursday, February 19th
7:00pm – 8:00pm

Learn how to make the popular Amish and Mennonite folk art tradition of reverse glass painting. We provide the supplies and instruction, you provide the creativity. Workshop fee is \$2.00.

Sacred Harp Singing

Thursday, March 19th
6:00pm-9:00pm

Come at 6:00pm to learn about the fascinating history of sacred harp singing. At 7:00pm you will have the opportunity to participate in a real sacred harp singing session. An experience you don’t want to miss.

Programs for Kids

A 19th Century Christmas

Saturday, December 13th
10:00am – 4:00pm

Come experience 19th Century Christmas traditions! Make Christmas ornaments or a card for your family. Help decorate a tree. Sing Christmas carols. Tell Santa what you want for Christmas and listen while he reads you a special Christmas story. Participate in a scavenger hunt and try a tasty Christmas treat.

The Band Instrument Capital of the World!

Monday, December 29th
10:00am – 2:00pm

Did you know Elkhart County was once considered the band instrument capital of the world? Come explore this fun historical fact through crafts, hands-on activities, and, of course, music! You will even have the opportunity to make your own musical instrument out of recycled materials.

Presidential Campaigning

Saturday, March 7th
1:00pm – 5:00pm

Give it a try for yourself as you explore different campaigning techniques fashioned throughout the years. Paint a parade lantern, create a slogan and put it on a button or ribbon, recreate the face of Glover Cleveland from a sketch of 4 pigs, and come dressed in your best patriotic red, white, and blue outfit. There will be prizes awarded for the most patriotic costumes!

Museum Calendar Winter 2009

Featured Program

Sock Hop*

Saturday, February 14th
6:30pm – 10:00pm

\$5.00 adults, \$2.00
children 12 & under

Looking for a fun activity on Valentine's Day? Put on your poodle skirt or letter sweater, leave your shoes at home, and bring the family out for an evening of retro fun. Don't miss the opportunity to bid on a 1950's themed silent auction or get a tasty treat at the ice cream fountain!



Scout Badge Programs

Brownie Girl Scout Workshop: Stitch It Together*

Saturday, January 10th
10:00am-12:00pm

Earn the Stitch It Together badge at the museum. Learn sewing basics as you stitch together fun craft projects including a troop patchwork quilt! Also, view artifacts from the museum's collection that have been created from a needle and thread.

Boy Scout Workshop: Genealogy*

Saturday, February 7th
10:00am-12:00pm

Complete some of the requirements for the Genealogy merit badge. Speak with a professional genealogist, view the museum's genealogy collection, and learn techniques for researching your family's history. Program sponsored in collaboration with the Elkhart County Genealogical Society.

Children's Programs (Continued)

American Girl Doll Day*

Molly's Life on the Home Front

Saturday, March 21st
1:00pm-2:30pm

Bring your American Girl Doll to the museum and learn together what life was like for girls growing up on the home front in Elkhart County during WWII. Be entered in a drawing to win an American Girl Doll!

Temporary Exhibit

Ballots, Buttons, and Bumperstickers Campaigning for President

Opens Saturday, February 28th

Experience local political history through a timeline of election results, party traditions, campaign slogans, and key figures spanning 1830 to 2008. See artifacts from presidential election campaigns that occurred in Elkhart County, including ribbons, rally flags, photographs, buttons, and bumperstickers. Open during regular museum hours. Museum admission is free!



Members Only!

Gallery Opening Celebration

Friday, February 27th
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Members of the Elkhart County Historical Society are invited to this invitation only grand opening of our latest temporary exhibit, *Ballots, Buttons, and Bumperstickers: Campaigning for President*. Live music, hors d'oeuvres, presentations, and a visit from a special guest will complete the evening!

Classroom Visitation

A costumed interpreter from the museum will visit your classroom and present on a fun historical topic using replica artifacts, hands-on activities and crafts.

The 1840's Farmer

The 1840's farmer will teach your class about farming and pioneer life in early Elkhart County. Grade level: K-4

Discovery Box Program

Our Discovery Box programs bring the museum directly to your classroom! Discovery boxes are filled with reproduction artifacts and lesson plans that teachers can borrow and use for one week.

American Indian Experience

Learn about Potawatomie & Miami Indians who lived in the area from the first European Exploration to their forced removal in the 1830s. Find out about their lifestyle and the changes that occurred during the fur trade. See how artists like George Winter contribute to our understanding of the past. Grade level: 4

Pioneer Life

Discover life in 1839 Elkhart County through the eyes of two children. Students will learn what life was like for these two siblings as they read journal entries talking school and home. Grade level: 1-3

Ethnic Studies

Many different ethnic groups call Elkhart County home. Learn about 8 of these groups by discovering when and why they came to Indiana, what they contribute to the area, and what some of the traditions are they brought with them. Grade level: 3-4

World War II in Elkhart County

This discovery box will highlight life on the home front during WWII. Themes include conservation, the expanding role of women, the impact of the media, "V" for Victory, & conscientious objection. Grade level: 9-12

To reserve a Discovery Box

Contact Rebecca Oestreich at 574.848.4322 or rebecca@elkhartcountyparks.org

Adult Programs

Heirloom Quilt Show*

Saturday, January 24th
10:00am-4:00pm

Be a part of the Elkhart County quilting story by bringing in your family quilt to be documented for the Elkhart County Quilt Registry. Then, from 2:00-4:00, share your quilt's story with the other participants and the general public. Quilts from the museum's collection will be included in the program.

7th Annual Michiana Artists and Authors Day*

Sunday, March 15th
1:00pm-5:00pm

Experience Michiana culture as local authors and artists display their work surrounded by museum exhibits. See original work by over 25 Michiana artists, enjoy free refreshments and discover Elkhart County history.

Mission Statement

The Elkhart County Historical Museum fosters appreciation and preservation of local history and culture through exhibits, educational programs, and an accessible library and archives.