

# Blue Earth County Historical Society K-5 School Tours

Blue Earth County History Center and Historic R. D. Hubbard House

To learn more and schedule a tour please contact the History Center at  
507-345-5566 or [Info@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](mailto:Info@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)

Grade Level	Tour Program
<b>Kindergarten</b>	<p>Tour Program: If You Lived Long Ago - Life in Pioneer Times Location: Blue Earth County History Center</p> <p>In the Kindergarten history tour, we encourage imaginative play with touchable museum artifacts and guided questions to encourage students to compare and contrast their life at home to the life of a child in pioneer times.</p> <p>Aligns with MDE Standards: K - 0.4.1.1.1, 0.4.1.1.2, 0.4.2.4.</p>
<b>First Grade</b>	<p>Tour Program: School Life Long Ago and Today Location: Blue Earth County History Center</p> <p>The First Grade history tour at the Blue Earth County History Center is focused on early 20th century school life, enabling students to make connections between themselves and student communities from the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>Aligns with MDE Standards: 1 - 1.4.1.2.1., 1.4.1.2.2, 1.4.2.4.1, 1.4.2.4.2</p>
<b>Second Grade</b>	<p>Tour Program: This Special Place – Bdote and the Bison in Blue Earth County (Bdote means Meeting Place of Two Waters) Location: Blue Earth County History Center</p> <p>Second Grade students will engage in hand's-on activities with Museum artifacts to learn about diverse origins and histories in Minnesota and the Blue Earth County area with an emphasis on the Dakota way of life.</p> <p>Aligns with MDE Standards: 2 - 2.4.1.1.1, 2.4.1.2.1, 2.4.2.4.1, 2.4.2.4.2</p>

<b>Third Grade</b>	<p>Tour Program: How Did They Do That? - Discovery Tour Location: Historic R.D. Hubbard House</p> <p>This tour enables Third Grade students to discover STEAM at the turn of the century. Students will learn about history, technology, art and entrepreneurship on a trip through the Historic R.D. Hubbard House.</p> <p>Aligns with MDE Standards: 3 - 3.4.1.1.1, 3.4.1.2.1, 3.4.1.2.2, 3.4.2.3.1</p>
<b>Fourth Grade</b>	<p>Tour Program: Survival Minnesota: Stories, Facts and Legends Location: Blue Earth County History Center</p> <p>Fourth Graders will meet “Bigger than Life” characters of Minnesota History, listen to their stories, then be asked to determine if each of the stories are fact or legend. Students will use historical artifacts along with methods of historical inquiry to determine if the stories are historically factual or legends passed forward from the past.</p> <p>Aligns with MDE Standards: 4 - 4.4.1.2.1, 4.4.2.4.1, 4.2.3.3.1, 4.3.2.3.1</p>
<b>Fifth Grade</b>	<p>Tour Program: The Bounty of our County – Diversity in Blue Earth County Location: Blue Earth County History Center</p> <p>This tour for Fifth Graders will focus on place, growth and development with an emphasis on how immigration, ethnic diversity and culture have contributed to the thriving economies and communities of Minnesota with an emphasis on Blue Earth County.</p> <p>Aligns with Standards: 5 - 5.4.1.1.1, 5.4.1.2.1, 5.4.1.2.2, 5.4.2.3.1, 5.4.4.15.1, 5.4.4.16.1</p>

\*Pre-K Tours are also available.

<b>FAQ</b>	<b>Blue Earth County Historical Society K-5 School Tours</b>
<b>What is the Blue Earth County Historical Society?</b>	<p>Founded in 1901, the Blue Earth County Historical Society oversees the History Center and the Historic R.D. Hubbard House. The two sites offer valuable educational resources with engaging hands-on educational programming.</p>

<p><b>What is the History Center?</b></p>	<p>The History Center is the headquarters of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, located at 424 Warren Street, Mankato. The History Center tells the story of Blue Earth County's ever-changing history relative to the backdrop of Minnesota's larger history. From Indigenous Americans and early Euro-American settler lifestyles through the growth of the county to who we are today, visitors learn through experiencing museum artifacts and narratives. Visitors to the History Center are able to tour the Museum, Traveling Exhibits, Discovery Lab and Research Center.</p> <p>The Museum houses artifacts from pre-settlement times to early European settlement along with items which mirror the social, agricultural and economic development in Blue Earth County. The Traveling Exhibit Gallery allows visitors to view short-term exhibits from our stored collection, as well as traveling exhibits from other institutions including the Minnesota Historical Society. The Research Center contains an extensive catalogue of historical documents, photographs and newspapers. Younger visitors enjoy hands-on learning areas in the Discovery Lab, Log Cabin and Barn.</p>
<p><b>What is the Historic R.D. Hubbard House?</b></p>	<p>Operated by the Blue Earth County Historical Society, the Historic R.D. Hubbard House is located at 606 S. Broad Street, Mankato. The historic house museum chronicles the life and times of Mankato flour mill entrepreneur R.D. Hubbard and his family in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The Hubbard house, built in 1871, was the first private residence in Mankato to include the technologies of indoor plumbing, electricity and a telephone. The home stands as one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture, design and gardening in Minnesota. The adjoining Carriage House contains a collection of horse-drawn vehicles and antique automobiles. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.</p>
<p><b>Are all tours the same?</b></p>	<p>Our guided, interactive school tours are grade level appropriate. Topics, discussions and activities vary from grade to grade. Tours are designed to align with the Minnesota Department of Education State Standards for Social Studies at each grade level.</p>
<p><b>How long is a guided school tour?</b></p>	<p>Tours are one hour.</p> <p>Tours of the History Center include the Museum, Discovery Lab, Log Cabin and Barn, and may include the Research Center and Traveling Exhibit Gallery.</p> <p>Tours of the Historic R.D. Hubbard House include the Carriage House and (seasonally) Victorian gardens.</p>
<p><b>How many students am I able to bring?</b></p>	<p>The History Center will accommodate tours of up to approximately 100 students, teachers and chaperones at a time. Large groups will be split into smaller groups of approximately 15-25. Groups will be guided through the site by trained tour guides. We work to keep classes together.</p>

	The Hubbard House will accommodate up to approximately 60-65 students, teachers and chaperones at a time. Large groups will be split into smaller groups of approximately 10-25. Groups will be guided through the site by trained tour guides. We work to keep classes together.
<b>What will be done to ensure that all students will have the opportunity to participate?</b>	<p>Every attempt will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. Please contact us in advance to discuss necessary accommodations.</p> <p><u>Please note:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the second floor of the History Center is accessible by elevator, the second floor of the Hubbard House is <i>not</i> handicap accessible.</li> <li>• Para-professionals and translators who attend with their designated student will be admitted free of charge.</li> </ul>
<b>Will I receive any information prior to my tour?</b>	Prior to a school tour field trip, teachers will be sent information regarding the trip. The packet generally includes a pre-visit activity geared to the tour and information for the class to prepare for their visit. Post-tour activities are available by teacher request.
<b>Will the Blue Earth County Historical Society be flexible in working with the school when scheduling tours?</b>	The Blue Earth County Historical Society will work with schools to meet their needs when scheduling tours at the History Center or Historic Hubbard House. The importance of input from teachers and administrators is recognized, and every effort is made to accommodate the needs of the teachers and students.
<b>How much does a school tour cost?</b>	School tour fee is \$3.00 per student; teachers and chaperones are free at a 1 adult to 10-15 student ratio; regular (\$7.00) admission charged for additional adults. BECHS reserves the right to require a minimum of one teacher per classroom.
<b>How do I schedule a tour?</b>	<p>To schedule your school field trip or for more information, please contact the Blue Earth County Historical Society at 507-345-5566 or <a href="mailto:Info@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com">Info@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com</a>.</p> <p>Tours must be scheduled a minimum of two weeks in advance and are on a first come, first serve basis.</p>
<b>Are teachers able to give feedback about their tour experience?</b>	We appreciate feedback! Within a short time after the tour, teachers will be asked for feedback on their experience through a short email survey to help improve our tour program.