

“The Fieldtrip Gals!” LLC present:
Summer 2009 Field Trip Ideas/Lesson Plan Suggestions

According to a recent mailing that featured some of the “The 50 Greatest Moments in American History” it occurred to us that North Carolina has more ties to a lot of this history than at first glance. For example, the 2nd greatest moment in American History was the signing of the Declaration of Independence. GREAT!! But, did you know that the Halifax Resolves predates the Declaration & is in some ways responsible for the Declaration??? Halifax, NC is the present day site of a North Carolina Historic Site. On the grounds of the site, you can visit (FREE!) and learn more about this key piece of not only NC’s history, but America’s, as well!

Here are more examples:

- 1) The discovery of gold in California was predated by the very first discovery in 1799, here, in North Carolina (visit the state historic site: Reed’s Gold Mine)
- 2) Another great moment in American History is when television broadcasting began. (tour a local TV station & see how far broadcasting has come; should be free with advance notice for small groups)
- 3) Polio was conquered nationwide years ago, but did you know that there was a Polio Clinic in Hickory that dedicated itself to caring for patients with polio? (visit Warm Springs, GA, too)
- 4) While the above are some good examples of places to visit, how can you incorporate lessons suitable for summer homeschooling? Here are a few suggestions:
 - a) Create a summer trip timeline covering not only a few of the places you visit, but their place in history’s time line. Use photos, flyers or other small treasures to personalize!
 - b) Have a literary night, where you read together (or to each other) stories related to the place you visit or to a particular event that happened there!
 - c) One of our favorites, have a passport made & get it stamped (you can create your own or have them made for you) of all the places you visited!

Need some other historic events or ideas to inspire your lessons (or learning that may not feel like learning)? Here are other ideas:

America's Independence Documents: on-line visit: www.loc.gov (Library of Congress) or the National Archives (kids can sign their name to the Declaration for free & print off a copy) If you're planning on visiting in person, plan at least 6 months ahead to get tickets for all the great stuff!!

Civil War: check out: www.visitnc.com & search for the Civil War Trails", has several suggestions of places to see. Also, the NC State Historic Sites contains lots of information: www.nchistoricsites.org Need to go beyond NC? Head to VA, they have tons of Civil War places to visit!!

Cars & Engineering: head to Detroit (cruise the Internet, your library OR in person) More locally in NC, head to Mooresville, where the NASCAR Race Teams have lots to display!

Animals & Nature: The North Carolina Zoo tops the local list, but you can find smaller places, too. Be sure to check out the free "panda cams" at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. (the National Zoo has tons of free downloadable curricula to use on your own, or while visiting)!!

These are just a FEW of the great ways you can incorporate fun, learning & the summer of '09 together!! For further questions, information, please contact us:

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