

# Canal Basin Park Field Trips for Kids Form for Spring 2024

## INTRODUCTION

**Thank you** for your interest in Canal Basin Park Field Trips for Kids, a subset of the [Hollidaysburg Heritage Guided Tours](#) (HHGT).

## BACKGROUND

Field trips take place at Canal Basin Park in Hollidaysburg, PA and last about **two hours**, with 60-90 minutes of interactive instruction. During the field trip, students will visit several tour guide stations focused on **historic Hollidaysburg's location, transportation, growth, commerce, people and daily life** as they relate to the park and the Reiser House (museum). Students will complete an **Anticipation Guide** before the field trip and **Reflection Paper** after the tour, which works well for **elementary students** but can be modified for **any age or grade level** because our tour guides are teachers, librarians, and community organizers. The tour is free.

## FEEDBACK

"I didn't know it used to take people **many days to get to Pittsburgh** without the Canal Basin, [and] I didn't know that **animals** would pull the boats..." -fourth grade student in Spring 2022

"We had a great time...I was fascinated thinking about the implications of a community growing from **less than 100 people to 3000** so quickly!" -fourth grade teacher in Spring 2022

## FYI

Canal Basin Park, which turned 20 years old in April 2022, **does NOT have a lot of shade, tables or benches**. Canal Basin Park DOES have: **restrooms** beside the pavilion/amphitheater, a wheelchair-accessible **porta potty** beside the Reiser House and a **restroom** in the Reiser House. **Buses** can park at the "official" Canal Basin Park entrance located at 300ish Bedford Street or behind Blair Mill Outlets at 101 Canal Street. Folks on the field trip should **wear/bring**:

- Weather-appropriate play clothes and play shoes
- A hat
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Water
- Predetermined student groups, which will depend upon the number of tour guides available
- A First Aid Kit
- Necessary medications
- Emergency Contact Information
- Parent/Guardian permission forms with photo releases
- Picnic blankets, optional for eating lunch at the park
- Garbage bags, optional if eating lunch at the park

Before the field trip, teachers can utilize **local history materials** at <https://sites.psu.edu/canalcurriculum/> and show the first fourteen minutes of ["The History of the Allegheny Ridge" video](#) posted on YouTube.

On the day of the field trip, students can **eat lunch at the park** before/after the tour and **enjoy free play** there.

After the field trip, students and teachers can share **feedback via a Google Form** and maybe take home a parting gift as well as a related-art project.

## TOUR DATES

This year we will offer tours on Tuesday mornings with rain dates on Thursday mornings of the same week. Although HHGT gives Hollidaysburg Area School District student groups scheduling priority, we will schedule tours on a first come, first served basis after March 1. Submitting information does NOT guarantee a tour.

<b>Tuesday, April 30, 2024</b> 9:30-12:00 AM <b>Thursday, May 2, 2024</b> 9:30-12:00 AM	<b>Tuesday, May 7, 2024</b> 9:30-12:00 AM <b>Thursday, May 9, 2024</b> 9:30-12:00 AM	<b>Tuesday, May 14, 2024</b> 9:30-12:00 AM <b>Thursday, May 16, 2024</b> 9:30-12:00 AM
<b>Tuesday, May 21, 2024</b> 9:30-12:00 AM <b>Thursday, May 23, 2024</b> 9:30-12:00 AM	<b>Tuesday, May 28, 2024</b> 9:30-12:00 AM <b>Thursday, May 30, 2024</b> 9:30-12:00 AM	

**INTERESTED? EMAIL THESE TEN ANSWERS TO:** canalbasinfieldtrips at gmail.com

1. Preferred Tour Date(s):
2. School Name:
3. District Name:
4. Lead Teacher Name:
5. Lead Teacher Email Address:
6. Lead Teacher Cell Phone Number:
7. Grade Level(s) or Ages:
8. Number of Students Attending:
9. Special Instructions, Needs or Considerations:
10. Questions/Concerns:



## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

The actual and [virtual Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site](#) has many resources related to Hollidaysburg's history.

**NatureWorks Park** is less than a mile from Canal Basin Park. Feel free to contact the [Blair County Conservation District](#) to organize a corresponding tour, talk or picnic there. In fact, BCCD used to host a Water Festival in the spring. Perhaps you could schedule both field trips on the same day!

**Chimney Rocks Park** is less than a mile away. Consider adding that vista to your field trip agenda.

**The Everett Railroad** has a train station/depot beside Canal Basin Park. Visit [their website](#) for more information.

The **Alto Model Train Museum** at 1117 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Altoona has eleven train displays that your students may enjoy seeing. The museum is open every Saturday from 10-2 and is across the street from the [Railroaders Memorial Museum](#) and only a few miles from the [Horseshoe Curve](#). All are local gems!

Trips to [Fort Roberdeau](#) and [Baker Mansion](#) would also enhance your students' understanding of Blair County history.

## Letter to Parents/Guardians from the Field Trip Folks 😊

The **Hollidaysburg Heritage Guide Tours** group is happy to offer Canal Basin Tours for Kids again in May 2024, our third season of student-based field trips.

Field trips take place at **Canal Basin Park in Hollidaysburg, PA** and include **60-90 minutes** of interactive instruction.

During the field trip, students will visit **several tour guide stations** focused on historic Hollidaysburg's location, transportation, growth, commerce, people and daily life as they relate to the park and the Reiser House (museum).

Students will complete an **Anticipation Guide** before the field trip and a **Reflection Sheet** after the tour.

These tours work well for **elementary students** but can be modified for any age or grade level because our tour guides are teachers, librarians, and community organizers.

Here's some **feedback** from past tour participants:

"I didn't know it used to take people **many days to get to Pittsburgh** without the Canal Basin, [and] I didn't know that **animals** would pull the boats..." -fourth grade student

"We had a great time...I was fascinated thinking about the implications of a community growing from **less than 100 people to 3000** so quickly!" -fourth grade teacher

Canal Basin Park, which turned 20 years old in April 2022, **does NOT have a lot of shade, tables or benches**. Canal Basin Park DOES have: **restrooms** beside the pavilion/amphitheater, a wheelchair-accessible **porta potty** beside the Reiser House and a **restroom** in the Reiser House.

Folks on the field trip should **wear/bring/have**:

- Weather-appropriate play clothes and play shoes
- A hat
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Water
- Packed lunch (if eating at the park)
- Parent/Guardian permission forms with photo releases



On the day of the field trip, students can **eat lunch at the park** before/after the tour and **enjoy free play** there.

After the field trip, students and teachers can share **feedback via a Google Form** and may take home a parting gift.

For more information, please visit our website: <https://hollidaysburglibrary.org/hhgtours/>