

Canal Basin Park Tours for Kids (Spring 2025)

INTRODUCTION

Are you interested in **Canal Basin Park Tours for Kids**, an offering of the **Hollidaysburg Heritage Guided Tours** (HHGT) and the **Hollidaysburg Area Public Library**? If so, read on or visit our **website**:

<https://hollidaysburglibrary.org/hhgtours/>.

EXPLANATION

Tours are free, take place at Canal Basin Park in Hollidaysburg, PA and include 60-90 minutes of interactive instruction. During the tour/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). Tours work well for **elementary students** but can be modified for **any age or grade level**. Before the field trip, teachers, parents and guardians 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 and enjoy free play**.

STUDENT AND TEACHER 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, 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, Spring 2022

F.Y.I.

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 and a **restroom** in the Reiser House. **Buses, vans and cars** can park “across the footbridge” at the “official” Canal Basin Park entrance located at 300ish Bedford Street or behind Blair Mill Outlets at 101 Canal Street. Most groups spend a total of **2 to 2.5 hours at the park**, weather depending, so attendees should **wear/bring**:

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

TOUR DATES

Tours run on Monday mornings (with rain dates on Thursday mornings of the same week). Tours are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. (Depending on numbers, multiple groups may be scheduled for the same tour time.)

Monday, April 28, 2025 9:30 -12:00 AM (Thursday, May 1, 2025 9:30-12:00 AM)	Monday, May 5, 2025 9:30-12:00 AM (Thursday, May 8, 2025 9:30-12:00 AM)
Monday, May 12, 2025 9:30-12:00 AM (Thursday, May 15, 2025 9:30-12:00 AM)	Monday, May 19, 2025 9:30-12:00 AM (Thursday, May 22, 2025 9:30-12:00 AM)

INTERESTED IN A TOUR? EMAIL THESE ANSWERS TO [canalbasinfieldtrips at gmail.com.](mailto:canalbasinfieldtrips@gmail.com)

1. Preferred Tour Date:
2. Name of School/Group:
3. Name of Contact Person:
4. Email Address of Contact Person:
5. Cell Phone Number of Contact Person:
6. Grades/Ages of Students on Tour:
7. Number of Students Attending:
8. Special Instructions, Needs or Considerations:



OTHER FIELD TRIP IDEAS

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.

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 9th 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

Greetings!

The **Hollidaysburg Heritage Guide Tours** group is happy to offer Canal Basin Tours for Kids again in Spring 2025, our fourth season of teaching local history to school students.

Field trips take place at **Canal Basin Park in Hollidaysburg, PA** and include **60-90 minutes** of interactive instruction. Your child's tour is scheduled for:

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).

On the day of the field trip, students can **eat lunch at the park** and **enjoy free play**.

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

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Groups usually spend 2 to 2.5 hours at the park, so attendees should **wear/bring/have**:

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

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

Sincerely,

HHGT

Hollidaysburg Heritage Guided Tours (HHGT)

