



The Watershed History Collective

Bringing History to Life

Since 1971

Welcome to the Watershed History Collective! Our programs transform history from something visitors read about into something they actively experience. Through hands-on activities, historic spaces, artifact exploration, and outdoor learning, participants engage deeply with the people, environments, and events that shaped the Connecticut River Valley.

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Contact Us!

860-864-6174

Director of Education, Emily Grout

Education@thewatershedcollective.org

www.thewatershedcollective.org

Location

South Windsor, CT & We can travel to you!

AGES

Programs can be customized for a variety of grade levels, learning goals, and group sizes, including adult learners and community groups!

Field Trip Experiences

- On site Indigenous and Colonial Field Trips
- In School Field Trips
- Student Research Labs

Community History Programs

- Presentations and Demonstrations

Professional Development for Educators

- One Hour Workshops
- Curriculum Consulting
- Custom Experiences

Booking Guide & Pricing Sheet

South Windsor Field Trip Experiences

Colonial • Indigenous • In school



Indigenous Field Trips at Nowashe Village

Half-Day Field Trip Experience

Groups may select **three learning stations** from the topics below to create a customized **3-hour immersive field trip experience** tailored to grade level, curriculum goals, and student interests. Our Indigenous field trips take place at our **award-winning living museum Nowashe Village**.

Choose your learning Stations:

1. **Stone Tool Evolution:** Travel through the Paleo, Archaic, and Woodland periods while examining how Indigenous innovations evolved over time. Engage in hands-on tool exploration through using both authentic and replicated artifacts.



Colonial Field Trips in Historic East Windsor Hills

Half-Day Field Trip Experience

Groups may select **three learning stations** from the topics below to create a customized **3-hour immersive field trip experience** tailored to grade level, curriculum goals, and student interests. Programs combine artifact exploration, historic spaces, and interactive activities designed to bring history to life.

Choose your learning Stations:

1. **Ship Building and Commerce:** Explore how the Connecticut River shaped trade, transportation, and the shipping industry in New England. Look at artifacts and try hands-on activities both inside and outside at the historic 1786 Bissell House at Ferry Farms.

2. **Day in the Life:** Experience everyday village life during the Woodland Period through hands-on exploration of wigwams, tools, agriculture, food preparation, and domestic life.
3. **Land Management:** Take a walk around Nowashe! Explore the native plants, animals, and ecosystems of Indigenous communities while learning about environmental stewardship and traditional food preparation, preservation, and cultivation.
4. **Hunting and the Atlatl:** Experience one of humanity's earliest hunting technologies through hands-on spear throwing and interactive games inspired by Indigenous traditions of hunting. Atlatl throwing best suited for participants 8 years and older.
5. **Native Games:** Learn like a kid again and explore how Indigenous people used games to teach lessons and skills. Learn the history and invention of Native games while playing games of chance, skill, and sport.
6. **Archeology Lab:** Come find out how historians gather knowledge. Analyze authentic artifacts and discover how archaeologists uncover stories of the past through material evidence. Archeology Lab best suited for participants 12 years and older. [Click Here to Book!](#)
2. **Daily Colonial Life:** Explore how life was for colonists of all ages! Learn about farming practices, carding wool, colonial chores, and the daily routine while taking a full walking tour of historic 1786 Bissell House.
3. **Local Economy, Trades, and Crafts:** Explore traditional craftsmanship, general stores, and local economy while learning how commerce and community shaped everyday colonial life at the historic 1786 East Windsor Hills Post Office.
4. **One-Room Schoolhouse Experience (c. 1860):** Step into a historic schoolhouse and experience a typical 19th-century school day while exploring penmanship, discipline, games, chores, and childhood in early America.
5. **Ink and Illumination:** Step into the daily life of colonial children through two essential early American skills: writing with quill and ink and hand-dipping candles. Participants explore communication, historic documents, and household labor while practicing cursive with goose quills before creating their own hand-dipped candle to take home.
6. **Colonial Research Workshop:** Join us at one of our various historic sites to complete a full historical research workshop. This workshop includes conducting colonial research, archeology, primary sources, and colonial artifacts. Workshops are best suited for participants 12 years and older. [Click Here to Book!](#)

**NOWASHE
VILLAGE**

In School Field Trip Experiences



Indigenous in School Field Trips

Package One: Discovering Indigenous Lifeways *(Best suited for elementary audiences)*

This engaging 3 station introductory experience encourages curiosity, creativity, and hands-on exploration through three interactive learning stations:

1. **Stone Tool Evolution** — Explore authentic and replicated tools from the Paleo, Archaic, and Woodland periods while discovering how Indigenous technologies changed over time.
 2. **A Day in the Life** — Experience everyday life in a Woodland-period village through hands-on exploration of tools, containers, agriculture, and domestic life.
 3. **Storytelling & Craft** — Gather for Indigenous storytelling traditions followed by a themed hands-on craft activity inspired by the stories and cultures explored during the program.
-



Colonial History in School Field Trips

This interactive colonial experience combines hands-on activities with engaging historical interpretation to help learners connect with life in early New England. This program is easily customizable to any age group.

The program includes three rotating learning stations:

- **Quill & Ink Writing** — Students practice cursive writing using traditional goose quills and ink while learning about colonial communication and historic documents.

Package Two: Investigating the Past

(Best suited for middle and high school audiences)

Designed to encourage critical thinking and inquiry-based learning, this 3 station immersive experience explores archaeology, Indigenous technology, and historical investigation.

1. **Stone Tool Evolution** — Examine authentic and replicated tools while exploring how environment and innovation shaped Indigenous life over thousands of years.
2. **Archaeology Research Lab** — Analyze artifacts and evidence to uncover how archaeologists learn about past cultures and lifeways.
3. **A Day in the Life** — Explore Woodland-period village life through hands-on interaction with tools, agriculture, foodways, and domestic practices.

[Click Here to Book!](#)

- **Candle Dipping** — Participants experience the everyday chore of candle making and create their own hand-dipped candle using traditional techniques.
- **Colonial America Exploration** — Through artifacts, storytelling, and discussion, students explore daily life, trade, community, and culture in colonial New England.

[Click Here to Book!](#)



Student Research Labs

From Classroom to Collections

This customizable program combines in-school instruction with on-site experiences to create an extended inquiry-based learning opportunity. Students engage with artifacts, documents, images, and historical spaces while learning how historians research and interpret the past.

Working alongside our educators, students develop research questions, analyze primary sources, and gather information about historical artifacts. Programs can be tailored to connect with classroom curriculum, local history, colonial Connecticut, Indigenous history, slavery in the North, or other focus areas.

Possible program formats may include in-school or off site field trips, on-site experiences, guided research labs, artifact and primary source analysis workshops, educator-led presentations, collaborative inquiry sessions, and student presentation showcases. Programs can be structured as single-day visits or multi-part partnerships tailored to curriculum goals and grade levels. This experience is ideal for capstone projects, interdisciplinary learning, National History Day preparation, or extended classroom units. [Click Here to Book!](#)



Community Presentations

Invite us into your world! Bring history to life through engaging, interactive presentations designed for libraries, historical societies, colleges, and community spaces! These one-hour programs combine discussion, visuals, artifacts, and audience participation to create memorable experiences that connect communities to the rich history of the Connecticut.

01

Colonial Connecticut: River, Trade & Tavern Tales

Step into colonial Connecticut through stories of daily life, commerce, labor, and survival along the Connecticut waterways.

02

Indigenous life along the Connecticut River Valley

Discover the histories, cultures, and enduring presence of Indigenous Peoples of the Connecticut River Valley.

03

Indigenous Land Management & The Three Sisters Garden

Explore the science, sustainability, and cultural significance behind traditional Indigenous land management and the Three Sisters method of planting corn, beans, and squash.

04

Macabre Connecticut: Spooky History & Strange Events

Uncover the darker side of local history through a chilling exploration of unusual events, folklore, tragedies, and mysterious stories from Connecticut's past.

05

Northern Slavery: A Case Study along the Connecticut River

Drawing from award-winning research and exhibitions, this presentation uncovers the often-overlooked history of slavery in the Connecticut River Valley and resistance in colonial Connecticut.

06

Archeology Lab

Become an archaeologist and excavate a simulated site to uncover artifacts that tell a hidden story from the past. Using real archaeological methods, piece together evidence to solve a historical mystery. (Best for tweens and teens)

Looking for a different topic? We offer customized presentations and community programs! Interactive elements and artifact exploration can be incorporated into all custom programming opportunities.

Educator Professional Development

Workshops • Curriculum Consulting

Professional Development 1 Hour Workshops

1. From Lecture to Experience:

Transform your classroom by moving beyond worksheets and textbooks—turning passive lessons into engaging, active learning experiences. Join our quick lesson redesign workshop for practical strategies you can use right away.

2. Making Learning Hands-on in every classroom:

Bring learning to life with movement, hands-on activities, and meaningful interaction across all subjects. Discover simple, practical swaps that turn traditional worksheets into active, engaging experiences.

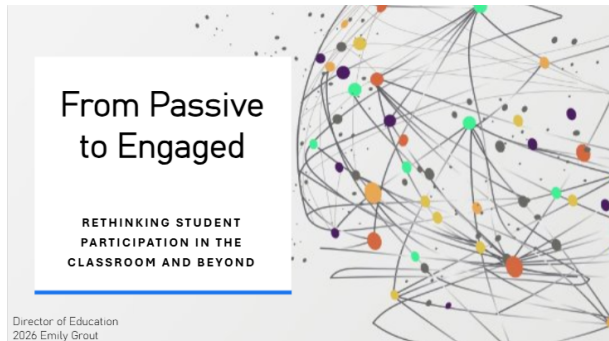
3. From Passive to Engaged: Rethinking Student Participation:

Engage every student with low-prep strategies that boost participation while keeping your classroom focused and under control. Discover simple techniques to harness energy without losing momentum.

4. Using Objects & Visuals to Deepen Understanding:

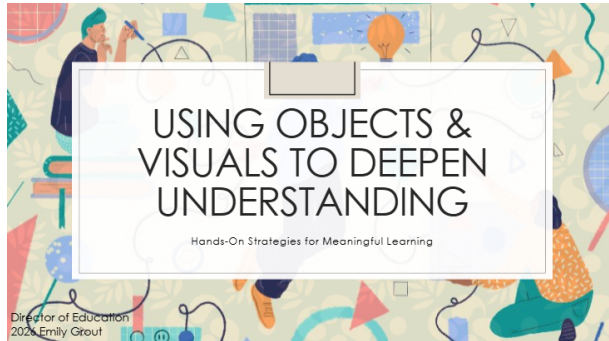
Make learning tangible with object-based strategies that go beyond history. Use everyday items to turn abstract concepts into clear, concrete understanding—like measuring real objects in math, using physical models in science, and exploring symbolic items in ELA.

Curriculum Consultations



In addition to workshops, we partner with schools, museums, nonprofits, and community organizations to develop customized educational materials and historically grounded learning experiences.

Whether designing curriculum, facilitating student research projects, developing interpretive materials, or planning educational programming, we provide collaborative support tailored to the needs of your learners and organization.



Custom services may include

- History Curriculum Writing Workshops
- Unit Development
- Historical Research Support
- Student Workshop Facilitation

[Click Here to Book any of our Programs!](#)

Planning Guide

Learning should be engaging, memorable, and fun. Whether you visit us in South Windsor or invite us to your location, our programs **bring history to life** through hands-on activities, authentic artifacts, primary sources, and interactive experiences.

From immersive field trips at Nowashe Village and our historic sites to in-school research labs, educator workshops, and community presentations, every program can be customized to fit your audience, grade level, and learning goals.

Book Today!

[Click here!](#) To schedule a program or request more information.

You will receive a follow up email confirming availability and details as soon as possible.

Note: Custom programs and curriculum development require an initial planning consultation.

[Click Here to Book with Us!](#)

Or

Contact our Director of Education Emily Grout at : education@thewatershedcollective.org



Bundle with Us!

We offer discounted bundled pricing when you book multiple programs!

Teachers & Trails Bundle:

Pair a teacher PD workshop with a student field trip. Connect classroom learning with hands-on, place-based experiences and save 150\$ on your PD workshop.

Roots & Routes Bundle:

Book a Colonial field trip in the spring and an Indigenous field trip in the fall. Explore layered histories across time and place and save 2\$ per student!

[Click here!](#) To schedule a program or request more information.

Pricing

FIELD TRIPS

On-Site Field Trip (Indigenous or Colonial) (3 Hours)

\$16 per student (minimum \$600)

Additional fees may apply for add-on activities or expanded programming

In-School Field Trip (Indigenous or Colonial) (3 Hours)

\$12 per student (minimum \$600)

Additional fees may apply for add-on activities or additional stations

In-School Archeology Lab (90 Minutes)

One Class up to 24 students: \$400 Flat Fee

Three Classes: \$600 Flat Fee

Additional fees may apply for additional classes or extended time frame

In-School Research Investigation (90 Minutes)

One Class up to 24 students: \$400 Flat Fee

Three Classes: \$600 Flat Fee

Additional fees may apply for additional classes or extended time frame

In-School Research Lab (3 Hours)

One Class up to 24 students: \$600 Flat Fee

Three Classes: \$800 Flat Fee

Additional fees may apply for additional classes or extended time frame

COMMUNITY HISTORY PROGRAMS

Community Presentation (1 hour plus Q&A)

\$300 Flat Fee

Additional time, stations, or activities may be added for an additional fee

Colonial & Indigenous Tour Groups : On-Site Historic Sites/Nowashe Village

Price may vary depending on group size. Fill out an inquiry with us [HERE](#) for specific pricing for your group.

Archeology Research Lab (1 hour plus research review and Q+A)

\$300 Flat Fee (A per-student fee will be added for groups exceeding 20 students)

Additional time, stations, or activities may be added for an additional fee

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Professional Development Workshop

\$300 flat fee

90-minute interactive workshop for educators and staff

Custom Curriculum Development

Pricing varies based on scope, length, and number of sessions. Fill out an inquiry with us [HERE](#) for specific pricing for your group.

ADD-ONS

Each program and field trip station can be enhanced with:

- Additional activity stations
- Extended program time
- Specialized thematic content

- Hands-on learning components including but not limited to crafts, artifact exploration and research labs, and other learning materials.

Add-ons are priced based on scope and will be included in your custom quote.

Thank you!

Contact Us!

PO Box 131

South Windsor, CT 06074

860-864-6618

Carolyn Venne: Executive Director

Jess Vogelgesang: Communications

Director

Emily Grout : Director of Education

Laura Stadlander : Director of Programs



