



# GEORGE RANCH HISTORICAL PARK

## 2022 SCHOOL CLASS GUIDE



# GEORGE RANCH HISTORICAL PARK



## OVERVIEW

A living history Museum located on a 23,000-acre working ranch, the George Ranch Historical Park offers field trip experiences focused on Texas History from the 1830s to the 1930s. Each program is aligned with appropriate TEKS objectives.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

- TEKS aligned living history classrooms with hands on, experiential learning
- Picnic areas and restroom facilities
- Tram service for special needs
- Pre and post visit packets for each historical site
- Varied class options for grades K-12
- Ample parking for buses and cars

## FIELD TRIP OPTIONS

*Structured Classes: Sept 2, 2022 - May 11, 2023*

- Available Tuesday-Thursday
- \$7 per student, per class
- Arrive at 9:00 a.m. and/or 11:30 a.m.

*Self-paced Visits: Available every Friday*

- After May 16, available Tuesday-Friday
- \$5 per student
- Timed around your schedule

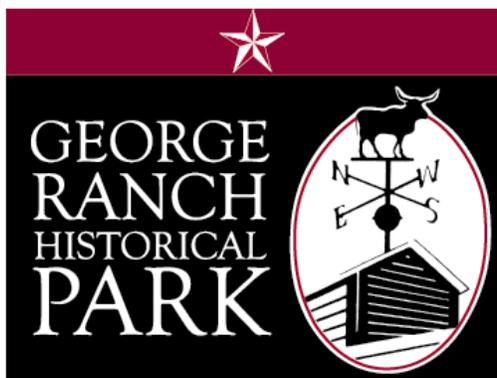
Chaperones: 1 free adult for every 10 students  
Additional adults are \$10 each.

## LOCATION

George Ranch Historical Park  
10215 FM 762, Richmond, TX 77469

## CONTACT US TO BOOK A PROGRAM

- 281-343-0218 x220
- [education@georgeranch.org](mailto:education@georgeranch.org)
- [www.georgeranch.org](http://www.georgeranch.org)



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## CLASS OPTIONS

### 1830s Jones Homestead

- **Native Americans (Grades 2-5)** Join us as we discover what Texas and her people were like before European colonization. Students will explore the cultural background, geographic, and historical aspects of Native Tribes in Texas. Rotations will include communication, the impacts of climate, natural resources, geography, trade and farming on Native tribes, and how those cultures are preserved today. (Programs will be conducted at the 1830s cabin or Heritage Nature Trail)
- **Pioneers in Texas (Grades 2-5)** Learn about pioneer life in 1830s pre-Revolution Texas through an exploration of how early pioneers accomplished the essentials - food, shelter and clothing - in this land new to them. Students will experience an open-hearth cooking demonstration, learn about food acquisition on the frontier, and explore log cabin life through spinning and weaving demonstrations, along with hands-on activities such as hand ginning cotton and finger spinning.
- **Thriving in Texas (Grades 2-5)** Step back in time and discover what life was like for the settlers who thrived in Stephen F. Austin's Texas colony. Students will survey their homestead site using a compass and basic math, build a ferry crossing like Henry Jones to supplement their farming income, and learn about recycling clothing pioneer style.
- **Gone To Texas (Grades 6-12)** Journey back to Stephen F. Austin's Colonial Texas where pioneers struggle to colonize unsettled land. Participants will be placed in the role of Settlers in this hands-on, student-led introduction to pioneer life. Students will be assigned to pioneer families who will have to take on tasks to ensure the cooperation and survival of the family and community. They will face multiple challenges in the path to success and prosper through strategic planning, resourcefulness, and sheer will. Who will survive and who will thrive?



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## 1860s Polly Ryon Prairie Home

- **Pasture to Parlor (Grades 2-5)** Experience life in 1860s Post-Civil War era Texas with a visit to the home of Polly Ryon and her husband William. Learn about the different lives of the people who helped operate a working Ranch in this era. Students will learn how to manage day-to-day business and social life as ranch owners, discover the life of a 1860s cowboy with interactive activities, and explore domestic service life at a large ranch.
- **A Few Good Men! (Grades 2-5)** Charge into history and learn what life was like during the American Civil War era through the eyes of a soldier. Students will enlist as cavalymen and join in practice drills that have been used in warfare for centuries. Discover advances in field medicine and experience life in the Ambulance Corps.
- **A House Divided: A Civil War Journey (Grades 6-12)** Plunge your students into the dramatic and harsh reality of the Civil War era. Participants will assume specific roles as Union soldiers, Confederate soldiers, or civilians on both sides of the conflict. Students will go through the training process of their assigned role and experience the complexity of emotions of those about to enter battle for the first time. Who will live, who will die, and what will be YOUR story?

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## 1890s Complex -Davis Mansion, Sharecropper Cabin, Blacksmith Shop, Rail Car, Line Camp

- **Little Farmers (Grades K-2)** Come explore life on a farm and learn about planting and animal care! Hear a story about life on a farm and learn how everyone needs to work together to make a farm prosper. Learn how crops grow, get your hands dirty with a planting experience, then meet some of the farm animals and help feed the chickens and hogs.
- **Don't Fence Me In (Grades 2-5)** Experience what life was like for the Texas cowboy out on the Prairie and learn how technology changed their way of life. Students will study the great cattle drive era, how the railroad and telegraph led to the expansion of America, and how barbed wire changed the cattle industry as it entered the 20th century.
- **Freedmen and Farmers: Life in Post-Reconstruction Texas (Grades 2-5)** Experience life as a Sharecropper in the 1890s and discover the short term and long term effects that the Reconstruction period had on the newly freed people of Texas. Students will learn about the dire financial hardships sharecroppers experienced, how to care for the land and animals included in their labor contracts, and recycle clothing in order to make a family quilt.



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## 1930s George Ranch House

- **Dirty 1930s: Life during the Depression and Dust Bowl (Grades 2-5)** Travel back in time to the 1930s to learn about life during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl. Students will explore the impact each of these major economic disasters had on America and experience what daily life was like for the people who lived at the George Ranch. Students will listen to an episode of The Lone Ranger on the wireless, test soil samples for nutrients and discuss why over farming led to soil erosion, and help tend and can vegetables from Ms. Mamie's garden.
- **Texas on the Homefront: George Ranch during WWII (Grades 2-5)** Experience what life was like during WWII and how the George family did their bit for the war effort. Students will learn ways American families supported their soldiers overseas through home Victory gardens, rationing and recycling precious materials, civilian aircraft observation posts, and knitting for victory.



## Cowboy Complex

- **Legacy of the American Cowboy (Grades 2-5)** Step into a world of cows, brands, and quarter horses during our 1930s Cowboy school program. Students will learn about brands and branding, roping basics, horse facts, and calf breeding, along with more about the Texas Longhorn and a close-up look at the Dipping Vat. The program is an expansion of the regularly featured cowboy show and includes several hands-on activities for students.

# HOMESCHOOL TOURS & CLASSES

Options for home school families and co-ops include structured classes which have been customized for smaller groups, as well as self-paced tours. Check our website for up-to-date class schedules or contact us to book your experience today!

## SELF-PACED EXPERIENCES



### Self-paced Park Tours

**Cost: \$5 per student**

Looking to customize your Park visit to align with your subject content? Want the freedom to set your own agenda? Self-paced Park tours may be right for you! Our self-paced tours allow you to set your own schedule and travel at your own speed. We recommend dividing into groups of 25 or less - especially if touring the historic homes - for the best experience.

### Self-paced Photography Tours

**Cost: \$6 per student**

Year after year, the George Ranch Historical Park is a popular place for Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo artists to get inspiration for their next masterpiece. Enhance your visit with this special program designed with student artists in mind. Each group will be provided with a visual guide full of photography tips, unique location suggestions, exclusive time with the cowboys, and more.

# SPECIAL FIELD TRIP EVENTS

## GEORGE RANCH HISTORICAL PARK



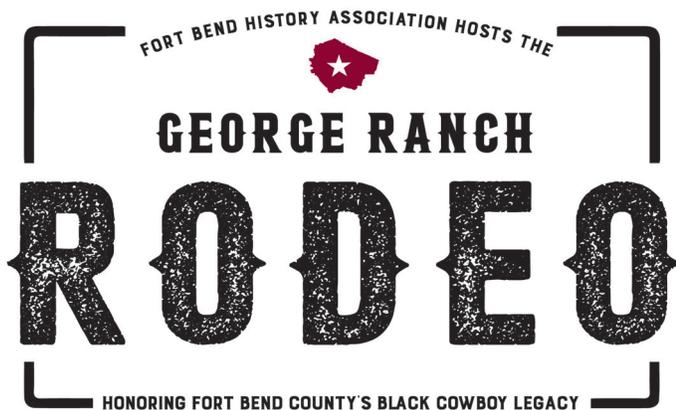
More info at  
[TexianMarketDays.com](http://TexianMarketDays.com)

281-343-0218 x220  
[education@georgeranch.org](mailto:education@georgeranch.org)

### Texian Market Days Festival Student Day

- October 22, 2022
- \$7 per student
- Ideal for grades 4-7

Texian Market Days is a living history festival that celebrates more than a century of Texas history — complete with militia drills, period musicians, lots of hands-on activities, historic home tours, demonstrations, and more!



More info at  
[GeorgeRanch.org](http://GeorgeRanch.org)

Please contact our Education Coordinator at 281-343-0218 x220 for questions or to book a student group.

### George Ranch Rodeo Student History Day

- Friday - February 17, 2023
- Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Saddle up for an educational and experiential day at the George Ranch Historical Park. Learn about the heritage of Black cowboys and the men and women who forged Fort Bend County into the strong community it is today. Topics will include cattle ranching, agriculture, Black cowboy history, rodeos and more!