

STRATFORD HALL SCHOOL GROUPS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For school trip inquiries and bookings, please contact either Kelly Childress, Director of Education, or Matthew Torres, Programs Manager.

Kelly Childress kchildress@stratfordhall.org (804) 493-1972

Matthew Torres mtorres@stratfordhall.org (804) 493-1380

Does Stratford Hall offer designated school trip days?

Stratford Hall offers designated K-12 school trip days in the Spring and Fall called Hands-On History Days. Our Hands-On History Day program is a four-hour long program including four 40-minute activities that explore Stratford Hall through the lenses of history, science, and culture. All field trips include a docent-facilitated audio-tour of the original 18th-century Great House, where students learn what life was like in colonial Virginia through the narratives of various members of Stratford Hall's plantation community. The program also includes an 18th-century cooking demonstration in the historic kitchen, an introduction to music of the African Diaspora with drumming demonstrations, and a station on either the scientific studies of paleontology or archaeology. The 40-minute house tour, which includes both the lower and upper levels of the Great House, is a hybrid-audio tour. Following a brief introduction to Stratford Hall by one of our docents, groups are led through a total of six stops outside and inside of the Great House. At each stop, students listen to an audio clip and then the docent gives supplementary information, points out a particular object, asks a question, or gives the students an opportunity to ask questions. With the exception of the house tour and cooking demonstration, all activities are outdoors. Please note both the 18th-century cooking demonstration and music of the African Diaspora activities are contracted to outside parties and are only offered during the Hands-On History Days. Please contact Kelly Childress or Matthew Torres for specific dates.

Does Stratford Hall offer school groups experiences year-round or tailored experiences?

Outside of the designated Hands-On History Days, Stratford Hall welcomes school groups year-round and will work with you to tailor your trip to your school's/group's needs. We offer other educational activities on a case-by-case basis such as Natural Dyes and Fibers, Candle making, and Fossil Hunting Excursions. Please contact either Kelly Childress or Matthew Torres to learn about our other offerings and trip experiences. Please note both the 18th century cooking demonstration and music of the African Diaspora activities are contracted to outside parties and are only offered during the Hands-On History Days.

Does Stratford Hall offer virtual learning or in-school learning experiences?

Stratford Hall offers Paleontology and Archaeology learning experiences to your school virtually or right to your classroom. Please contact Kelly Childress or Matthew Torres to learn more.

What's the process once I book a trip?

Please confirm the trip date and details with either Kelly Childress or Matthew Torres and fill out a school trip booking form. The trip date will be placed on Stratford Hall's calendar. All attendance numbers **MUST** be confirmed **two weeks prior** to your visit. We will provide you with your trip itinerary and any additional information **one week prior** to your arrival. On the day of your visit, a Stratford Hall team member will greet your group for a brief opening talk and direct your group to your first station. You will be able to use the restrooms in the Historic Area.

What is the chaperone policy?

To help limit group sizes and optimize the student's experience and learning, each class is limited to three chaperones. A chaperone is any adult that is not a teacher or school faculty member. There is not a limit on teachers/school faculty members. For example, if the school's group is divided into four classes, the chaperone limit is 12. We ask that the schools collect the money for their chaperones prior to their visit and pay the morning of with either one check or credit card transaction.

How much do trips cost?

For all K-12 public or private schools, student admission is covered by Stratford Hall's grant money. The student rate is \$8 per student otherwise. Teachers and bus drivers are free. Chaperones are \$15.00 per person. We ask that the schools collect the money for their chaperones prior to their visit and pay the morning of with either one check or credit card transaction. Please note if you book a trip outside a Hands-On History Day, some activities may include an additional costs.

Is there school bus parking available?

There will be designated school bus parking in the Historic Area with signs to help navigate drivers. Chaperones will park in the Visitor Center parking lot and walk over to the Historic Area to meet with the group.

Is lunch offered on-site?

Currently, Stratford Hall **DOES NOT** offer any dining/food services on-site. If your group wishes to have lunch on-site, it will be your responsibility to bring your own food and drink. We have picnic tables available in the Historic Area or groups may sit on the oval grass in front of the Great House.

What happens if we are running late or off-schedule?

Please note multiple schools are usually booked and on-site for each Hands-On History Day. All trip itineraries are scheduled to account for the group's activity stations and departure times. It is important to maintain your group's schedule. Stratford Hall cannot guarantee your group will get its full time at an activity station if your group is running late. Groups will receive allotted time between stations to account for transitions to the next station.

What is the inclement weather policy?

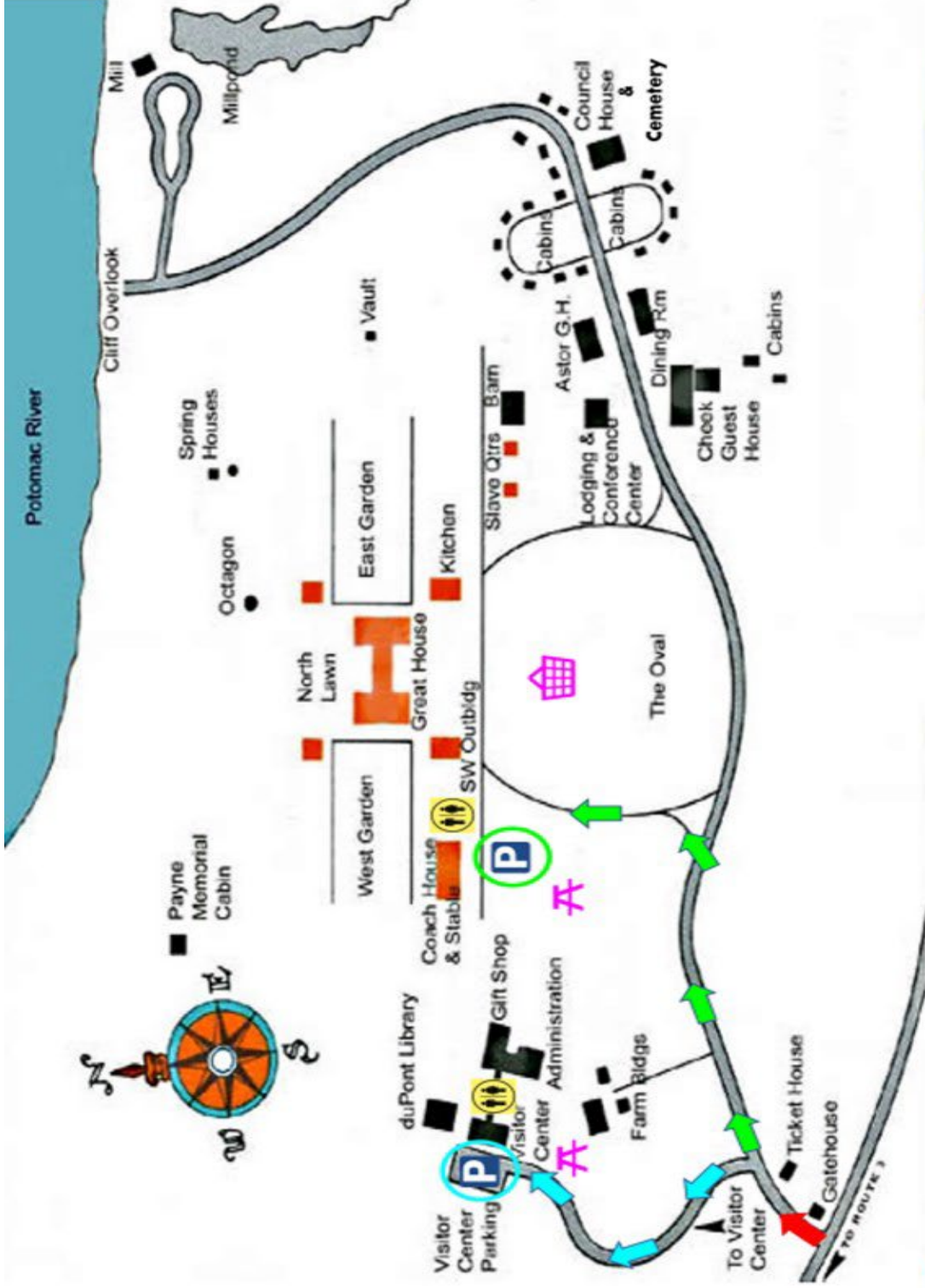
Stratford Hall has an inclement weather policy in place for school trips. All Hands-On History Day activities are able to be moved into indoor spaces.

What accessibility resources does Stratford Hall offer?

Stratford Hall strives to make its programs and facilities accessible to all visitors. Due to the historic period and age of many of our tour buildings and landscapes, some areas may not be fully accessible to some visitors. Due to the number of people on-site and station related activities, the environment may become crowded and very noisy. Due to group time constraints, transitions to new activities may seem quick and may not allow ample time for some students to readjust as they normally do. It is okay for students or teachers to step away from an activity to regroup themselves.

Stratford Hall currently offers the following resources to all guests:

- Two sensory friendly bags
- ASL Tour of the Great House and Historic Area via a tablet
- Two complimentary wheelchairs
- Portable wheelchair ramp
- Baby changing stations are available in the Historic Area and Visitor Center
- Family Restroom in the Historic Area
- Golf Cart service for assistance around the site.



Parking:

- **For Buses:** In historic area, along the tree line by picnic tables
- **For Chaperones and passenger vehicles:** In Visitor Center parking lot



Restrooms:

- Visitor Center (changing tables available)
- Historic Area (family restroom available next to women's restroom)



Designated Eating Areas:

- Historic Area by Carriage House
- Outside the Visitor Center



The Oval

- Groups can enjoy their food in the grass field; no tables available

