



## Gazette



## Escape the Dog Days of Summer at Har-Ber Village

Looking for a refreshing break this summer? Come enjoy the shaded trails of Har-Ber Village, where the canopy offers cool relief and gentle breezes drift in from Grand Lake. Open from dawn to dusk, our scenic paths are perfect for a peaceful walk, a bit of exercise, and maybe even a glimpse of local wildlife. Step outside, breathe deeply, and let nature enhance your day.

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## Welcome Grand Lake Y Summer Camp

Today we're thrilled to host an amazing group of young explorers from the Grand Lake YMCA! From hands-on history to scenic hikes and pioneer-era adventures, these campers are getting a true taste of life in the Village.

Thanks for spending your day with us—we loved sharing stories, smiles, and a little bit of Grand Lake history!



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## Delaware County Community Partnership

The Potts Family Foundation, as part of DCCP, recently partnered with Har-Ber Village to host a special day of family-friendly activities over the holiday weekend. Guests enjoyed refreshments, fun giveaways, and engaging experiences throughout the Village—thanks in part to the support of dedicated volunteers **Clarissa Allen and Marisela Long**.

This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to building stronger families and communities. The Potts Family Foundation champions early childhood well-being,



trauma-informed care, and family resilience—goals that align closely with Har-Ber Village’s mission to engage young families through hands-on exhibits, educational programming, and inclusive events.

Together, Har-Ber Village and the Potts Family Foundation are working to:

- Expand access to early childhood resources through community-based events
- Integrate trauma-informed and family-centered initiatives into the museum experience
- Connect historic preservation with meaningful outreach to children and families

This partnership is helping ensure that Har-Ber Village remains not only a place to explore the past—but also a space that nurtures the future.



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## Skookum Doll

A Skookum Doll (often misspelled “Sukom”) is a popular early-20th-century souvenir doll designed to resemble Native Americans. Created around 1913 by Mary Dwyer McAboy of Missoula, Montana, these charming dolls originally featured hand-carved apple-wood heads but soon were mass-produced using composition and, later, plastic.

They typically stand from a few inches to over 3 feet tall, draped in felt blankets inspired by Hudson’s Bay, Pendleton, or Navajo designs, and accessorized with headbands, beads, or drums.

The dolls were marketed as “The Great Indian Character Doll” and became widely collected across the U.S. Though not authentically made by Native Americans, Skookum Dolls remain treasured collectibles for their quaint folk-art charm and historical appeal.



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## Early Rural Mail Delivery Carriage

Around 1900, U.S. Rural Free Delivery (RFD) was just beginning, and mail was commonly delivered using horse-drawn carriages or wagons specially outfitted for postal use.

**Type:** Small enclosed horse-drawn carriage or lightweight wagon

**Features:** Painted with “U.S. Mail” and route number, often with a small window for the driver and weather protection for mail

**Design:** Built high off the ground for rural, unpaved roads; often with a seat for the driver and compartments or shelves for sorting mail



**Operation:** Driven by rural carriers (usually men, but some women), who delivered mail directly to farm mailboxes along their designated route

These carriages symbolized a major innovation—connecting isolated rural Americans to the rest of the country. The first official RFD route began in West Virginia in 1896, and by 1902, the program had expanded nationwide.

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# Village Hours

**Thursday through Monday**

9:00 am to 3:30 pm

## 2025 Events

**Pioneer Days**

September 25 - 27

**Education Day**

November 7

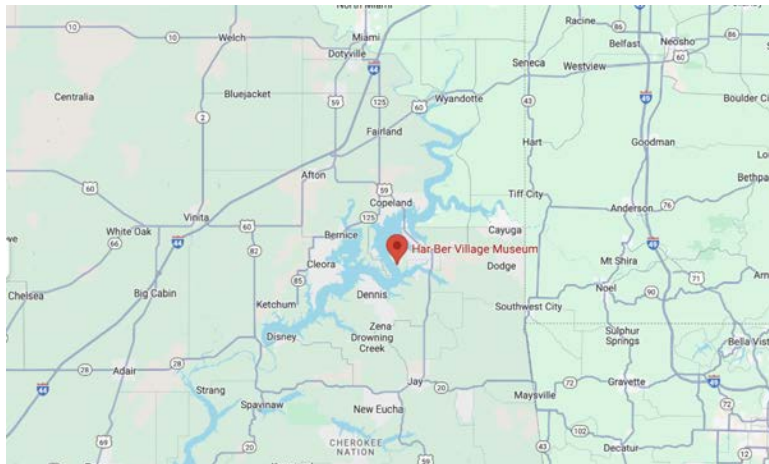
**Santa's Ozark Mountain Village**

November 28 & 29

December 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 & 20

## **Visit the Village**

[Map](#)



## **Current Ways to Support the Village**

Due to your generous support, Har-Ber Village will be able to preserve and restore historic buildings like the Village Drug Store, expand hands-on educational programming, and improve our hiking trails and outdoor spaces. As a vital economic driver and regional tourism anchor, Har-Ber Village draws thousands of visitors to Grove each year—supporting local businesses, strengthening community partnerships, and enhancing quality of life. Thanks to you, Har-Ber Village continues to be more than a museum—it's a gathering place, a learning hub, and a proud symbol of why Grove is such a great place to live, work, and visit. Here are some ways you can help the Village thrive:

**Leave us a review | Free:** One of the best ways to let others know about the Village is to leave us a review! This enables them to see our pages on sites like Google and Facebook. [Click here to leave a Google review.](#)

**Become a donor | \$5+:** You can now become an official Har-Ber Village resident.

Donations and memberships directly benefit the Village. [Click here to learn more.](#)

**Come to our events:** One of the main goals of the Village is to provide a place for the community to come and gather. By participating in events, you help us meet that goal. [Check out upcoming events.](#)

**Spread the word! | Free:** Do you enjoy the Village? Tell your neighbors or share pictures on social media! Tag The Village in your social posts so we can hear about your great time and your friends can see it, too! [Facebook link.](#)

## Tour the Village with the Mayor

Jeff McSweeney has joined the Village as Mayor (aka Development Director). Reach out to Jeff for a personal tour of the Village campus to learn what we do for the community, our vision for the future, and how you are crucial to the Village's long-term success.



Jeff McSweeney - Mayor  
[mayor@har-bervillage.com](mailto:mayor@har-bervillage.com) ~ Cell 309-678-6541

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