



Paynesville Historical Society
LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO INSPIRE THE FUTURE
251 AMPE DRIVE - PAYNESVILLE, MN 56362
PAYNESVILLEHISTORICALL.ORG | 320-243-7547

Kids History Camp Handbook

Learning from the past to inspire the future

Kids History Camp provides youth with the opportunity to:

- Foster self-confidence and essential life skills through technology-free, hands-on learning experiences.
 - Engage directly with history in a distinctive learning environment that makes historical concepts relevant and memorable.
 - Cultivate a sense of identity and community through shared experiences and a deeper understanding of local heritage.
 - Highlight the relevance of history in today's world while building skills that support success in school, the workforce, and entrepreneurial endeavors.
 - Build lasting self-confidence, knowledge, and a strong sense of personal capability that extends beyond the camp experience.
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Kids History Camp Information

- Camp is held on the **second Monday of June, July, and August**.
 - Camp activities run from **9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**.
 - Drop-off is **8:45–9:00 AM**; pick-up is **4:00–4:15 PM**.
 - Campers are divided into **six multi-age groups**.
 - Camp is facilitated by **generous volunteers**.
 - Campers should expect to be **outdoors rain or shine** for most of the day.
 - Morning and afternoon snacks are provided.
 - Campers must bring a **brown-bag lunch** (no refrigeration available).
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Camp Behavior Expectations

To ensure a safe, positive, and enjoyable experience for all campers, the following expectations will be followed throughout camp.

- **Safety First:** All choices and actions should prioritize safety at all times.
- **Respect:** Campers are expected to act respectfully toward themselves, other campers, volunteers, staff, and station leaders.
- **Stay with the Group:** Campers must remain with their assigned group leader at all times unless given permission by staff, including during lunch, breaks and transitions.
- **Communication:** Campers should notify an adult leader immediately if they feel upset, uncomfortable, or need help.
- **Kindness & Inclusion:** Campers should be patient, tolerant, and considerate of all group members.
- **Food Safety:** Lunches and snacks must be kept to oneself. Food sharing or swapping is not permitted due to allergy and health concerns.
- **Participation:** Campers are encouraged to participate in activities or observe quietly and respectfully.
- **Appropriate Behavior:** Appropriate language and actions are expected at all times.
- **Helping Others:** Campers are encouraged to help others and work cooperatively.
- **Positive Role Models:** Campers should set a positive example through their words and actions.

Camp staff reserve the right to address behavior concerns as they arise. Parents or guardians may be contacted if behavior becomes disruptive or unsafe.

Behavior Consequences



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The Paynesville Historical Society is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and positive camp experience. Behavior concerns will be addressed in a calm, consistent, and age-appropriate manner.

Behavior concerns may be handled using the following steps, depending on severity and frequency:

1. **Verbal Reminder** – Review of expectations and redirection
2. **Warning & Discussion** – Clear warning and conversation with staff or group leader
3. **Temporary Removal** – Short break from an activity to regroup and reflect
4. **Parent/Guardian Notification** – Contact made if behavior continues or a serious incident occurs
5. **Dismissal from Camp** – Repeated disruptive behavior, unsafe actions, or serious misconduct may result in dismissal. *No refunds will be provided.*

Behaviors that may result in immediate parent contact or dismissal include:

- Actions that threaten safety
- Physical aggression or bullying
- Inappropriate or offensive language
- Refusal to follow staff instructions
- Leaving the group without permission
- Damage to museum property or exhibits

Our goal is to partner with families to support positive behavior and a successful camp experience.

Camp Day Contact Information

Camp Coordinators

- Emily Monnens: 320-333-5095 (phone or text)
- Sam Meyer: 320-241-8004 (phone or text)



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Paynesville Historical Museum

251 Ampe Drive

PO Box 313

Paynesville, MN 56362

Phone: 320-243-7547

Email: paynesvillehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Arrival & Departure

Location: Paynesville Historical Museum

Parking & Entry

Parents may park along the road. Parking attendants will assist vehicles as needed—please follow their instructions. For safety and accountability, all campers must enter on foot through the Museum driveway and register before entering the campgrounds.

Check-In

- **8:45–9:00 AM**
- Late arrivals must check in at the **snack station located in front of the school building**.
- An adult must sign in each camper at the registration table and then walk them to their assigned group.
- Campers will receive their group color assignment at check-in.

Check-Out

- **4:00–4:15 PM**
 - An adult must sign out each camper at registration **and** with their group leader.
 - Early pickups must check out at the **snack station located in front of the school building**.
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What Campers Should Wear- Most activities are held outdoors, be sure to check weather conditions and dress appropriately

- Closed-toe shoes (no flip-flops or open-toe shoes)
 - Comfortable shorts and a t-shirt (**no dresses or tank tops**)
 - Sunscreen applied before arrival
 - Hat recommended on sunny days
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What Campers Should Bring

- Lunch that does not require refrigeration
 - Refillable water bottle
 - Bug spray, sunscreen, or other protection (labeled)
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What Campers Should Not Bring

- Cell phones or electronics
 - Smart watches, headphones, or music devices
 - Non-disposable lunch boxes
 - Loose or dangling jewelry
 - Valuables
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Additional Information

Lunch

Lunch is picnic-style at the Museum. Campers must bring a **labeled brown/paper bag lunch**. Lunches will be stored indoors in air-conditioning; refrigeration is not available.

Snacks



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Morning and afternoon snacks are provided. Please list food allergies during registration or notify us prior to camp. Campers with allergies should bring a personal snack.

Water

A water refill station is located at the snack station.

Sunscreen & Bug Spray

Campers must apply sunscreen and bug spray themselves, with guidance from staff. Adult leaders may not apply these products directly. Please apply before arrival.

Health & Safety

Bumps & Bruises

Minor first aid will be provided. Parents will be notified at pickup. For serious injuries, parents will be contacted immediately.

Emergency Weather Plan

Each station has a designated shelter. The City of Paynesville, Police Department, Fire Department, and Emergency Services are notified of camp dates for preparedness.

Allergies

Please provide all allergy information, precautions, medications, and instructions during registration. While we do our best to accommodate allergies, not all station activities can be guaranteed allergen-free.

Camper Belongings

All belongings must be labeled. Campers should bring belongings in a bag, which will be placed in their group's color-coded bin for access throughout the day. The camp team is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Left items may be picked up at the Museum during regular business hours for up to **30 days**, after which they will be disposed of.

Promotional Photos & Videos



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Campers may be photographed or recorded for promotional purposes, including use by museum staff, media outlets, and sponsors. Volunteers are not permitted to photograph campers.

Campers with Special Needs

A caregiver must attend with any camper who requires one-on-one assistance, supervision, or support to safely participate in activities. Please contact camp staff prior to camp to discuss accommodations.

A Note of Thanks

Kids History Camp is a fun and meaningful learning experience made possible by **50+ dedicated volunteers** who generously share their time and talents. Volunteers range in age from 16 to over 80 years old, creating a truly unique and multigenerational experience.

We also gratefully acknowledge our sponsors, whose financial support helps reduce the cost of camp from over \$100 per camper to a **\$30 registration fee**, as well as our planning committee that works year-round to make camp a success.