



THOMASVILLE

HISTORY CENTER



Thomasville History Center & Lapham-Patterson House

Preparation Guide for Student Tours

Our history begins here. Let us start you on the journey.

Dear Teachers & Group Leaders:

Thank you for scheduling a visit to the Thomasville History Center and/or the Lapham-Patterson House. We hope that your visit will be a memorable and enriching experience. We have designed this guide to help you and your group prepare for your visit. Please note that the Health & Safety protocols for the Thomasville History Center may be subject to change depending on the current rates of infection in the community and national public health guidance. We will communicate all protocols in advance.

Enclosed in this packet you will find:

1. **Basic Information**
2. **Conduct Guidelines**
3. **Parking & Property Information**

Please share this packet with all chaperones. We will send you a **History Hangout Activity Pack** which can be used before your visit to familiarize students with the museum and what it does, or after your visit to help reinforce concepts learned onsite.

We look forward to your visit and hope that the information found in this packet will prove useful!

Thank you,

The Staff of the Thomasville History Center

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229-226-7664
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Table of Contents

Contents

Information for Student Visits.....4

Conduct Guidelines..... 6

About the History Center 8

Weather & Cancellation Policy 8

Parking..... 8

Our Campus9

Accessibility9

Historic Structures..... 11

Information for Student Visits

The Thomasville History Center is located in the historic 1923 Flowers-Roberts House at 725 North Dawson Street in Thomasville, Georgia. The building contains more than thirty-five exhibits about the history of Thomas County, as well as the document, photo, and three-dimensional archives that provide the material evidence of what happened in Thomas County's past.

Visits may be scheduled by phone: 229-226-7664; by email: history@rose.net; or in person at the Thomasville History Center, 725 N. Dawson St. during regular business hours, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

All group visits must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance with a member of the History Center. Arrangements for a tour of the History Center or Lapham-Patterson House are subject to each site's group tour rate, must be scheduled in advance, and are dependent upon availability.

- Capacity
 - 60 students per visit, 120 daily maximum
 - Required: 1 chaperone required per 15 students.
 - Groups of up to 60 students should be split up into equal-sized sub-groups of no more than 15 students per group by the teacher/group leader *prior* to arrival at the History Center.
- Fees
 - We offer free admission to the Thomasville History Center and Lapham-Patterson House for students and chaperones from Thomas, Grady, Brooks, Colquitt, Mitchell, Jefferson (FL), & Leon (FL) Counties. Admission is underwritten by a grant from the Thomasville Antiques Show Foundation, Inc.
 - Students & Chaperones from outside the above locations: the cost is \$2 per person
- Content
 - **Student Visits:** are aligned with content across the social studies and literacy Georgia Standards of Excellence. Supplemental resources are available on Pinterest for pre-and post-visit activities.

- Student visits will begin with a brief (15 minute) introduction to the theme or content of the day. Often, students will be presented with an overview of the history of Thomas County using photographs and primary sources found in the History Center’s collection. Students are encouraged to participate in the discussion.
- Each rotation group will engage in one element of the History Center experience and will follow a rotating schedule to allow each group to participate in all elements of the program.
- Each rotation will be approximately 30 minutes.
- Educators may select 3 rotations from the following:
 - 1870 Smith Homestead
 - 1892 Metcalfe Courthouse
 - 1877 Joyner-Calloway-House
 - 1896 Ewart Bowling Alley
 - 1885 Lapham-Patterson House
 - 1955 Fallout Shelter
 - Primary Source Workshop
 - “Thomasville Treasures” trunk
 - Wooden Toys
 - Croquet
 - Archaeology
 - Weaving
 - Hearth Cooking (Fee: \$50)
 - Scavenger Hunts

Conduct Guidelines

Please provide this information to all students, chaperones, and participants who will be accompanying your group's tour.

Guided tours are led by trained staff and/or volunteers.

Please let us know where you are in your curriculum so that we can be sure to align our talking points to your students' needs and interests.

Please arrive 5 minutes prior to the time of your tour and notify us if you are running late by calling 229-226-7664. Late arrivals may result in an abbreviated visit due to staff availability.

It is helpful for our staff to know whether groups will be arriving together by bus or van, or separately.

Please confirm your group's timings (arrival and departure) at least 2 days in advance of your visit.

A member of the History Center's staff will greet your group on the front porch of the Flowers-Roberts House. From there, guests will be directed to the introductory location.

Consumption of food and beverages is not allowed inside the History Center. Picnic tables and outside gathering areas are available to those who wish to make use of them. Please inform staff in advance whether you plan to picnic on the property and trash cans will be provided.

Please go over the following expected behaviors for all members of a guided tour:

Please be aware that there are offices and other visitors in the building, so remind your students to keep the noise level at a respectful level.

All members of the tour should have their cell phones silenced to avoid disruption during the tour and speaker presentations (including chaperones and teachers.)

Pictures may be taken once the guide has completed their instruction and when groups are exploring independently.

Curiosity and engagement are encouraged for all visitors. For the safety of the artifacts and the guests, please remind all in attendance to **"look with their eyes, and not with their fingers."** Please ask permission, or wait for instruction, before handling items.



Be sure students focus on the information to make the most of this learning experience. We try to make tours interactive at some points, so participants should be prepared for staff to ask them questions.

Chaperones should keep the group together and on-task. At no point should a chaperone leave a group unattended, or in the sole charge of a member of staff. A teacher or chaperone must accompany all students at all times. Please let the staff know if you would like to add a designated time for a bathroom break at arrival or departure.

Teachers and chaperones are responsible for the behavior management and discipline of their groups.

The History Center staff reserves the right to ask a visitor to remove themselves from a historic building or activity on the grounds of behavior or safety.



Please comply with all staff instructions or guidance. Your safety and a positive experience are our priority.

About the History Center

The Thomas County Historical Society was formed in 1952 and the Thomasville History Center was opened within the Flowers-Roberts House in 1972. Over the years, the collections have grown to include more than 500,000 artifacts and archival materials and eight historic structures. Now known as the Thomasville History Center, the organization, also operates the historic Lapham-Patterson House.

Thomasville History Center can be reached at 229-226-7664 or at history@rose.net.

Follow the History Center on social media to stay up to date on all the fun: Instagram & Facebook: @Thomasvillehistory. The Thomasville History Center is located at 725 N. Dawson Street in Thomasville and the Lapham-Patterson House is located just down the block at 626 N. Dawson Street.

Weather & Cancellation Policy

Because many of our activities and rotations require being outdoors, the History Center reserves the right to cancel and/or postpone student visits based on inclement weather if it poses a threat to the safety of our guests and staff. We will do our best to quickly reschedule any visit cancelled for this reason.

Groups will be contacted several days prior to their scheduled visit to confirm attendance, numbers, and activity rotations. Scheduled and confirmed visits may be cancelled up to 24 hours in advance. In situations with extenuating circumstances, group leaders may cancel the day of the program by calling 229-226-7664 or emailing amelia@thomascountyhistory.org.

Parking

The History Center's front entrance faces Dawson Street and is accessible through the front gate and the driveway gate. The driveway gate is narrow so caution is encouraged. Large vehicles (school buses and transport vans) are asked to park on Dawson Street facing south. Street parking is available on Dawson Street. As we are in a residential neighborhood, please use caution and consideration as you park.

Parking is also available at the Lapham-Patterson House on Dawson Street as well as in the backyard using the Webster St. driveway.

Our Campus



1. Gate & History Center Front Entrance, 725 N. Dawson St.
2. Accessible Entrance
3. Driveway- traffic must go one-way: follow the straightaway from the gate and curve right around the yard underneath the portico. Traffic exiting the lot must yield to entering traffic from Dawson St.
4. Bus/Guest Parking
5. Roberts Garage Lot- accessible parking space & staff parking. Limited availability
6. Lapham-Patterson House front entrance, 626 N. Dawson St.
7. Webster Street driveway (near the intersection with Young St.)
8. Lapham-Patterson House Accessible Parking- located behind the House

Accessibility

Accessible parking is available for small transport vans and private vehicles on Dawson Street (#3 on the map above). A ramp is located at the top of the connected walkway from the parking area to the Davis Wing (#2) of the Flowers-Roberts House.

At the Lapham-Patterson House (#6), accessible parking is available on a brick pad behind the home (#8). Please enter the backyard using the Webster St. driveway (#7) at the rear of the property. A brick sidewalk connects the parking area to the ramp. The main floor of the Flowers-

Roberts House and the Lapham-Patterson House are wheelchair accessible. Unfortunately, at this time the historic buildings are not wheelchair accessible. Please inform the staff of your accessibility needs in advance of your arrival.

Historic Structures

