

FIELDTRIP OPPORTUNITY IN LASALLE

Learning History on the I&M Canal Boat

Activities

The I&M Canal Boat is a replica of the mule-pulled passenger boats that transported pioneers along the Illinois and Michigan Canal more than 150 years ago. A mule-tender in period dress will walk along the original canal towpath leading a mule pulling the canal boat. A period dressed crew and guide will engage students with lively stories of the early days on the canal and the Illinois prairie, taking them back to a critical time in our state and national history.

In addition to the one-hour ride, the experience includes a 15-minute lesson on mules: the power behind the canal boat, how they were used historically, and how we care for them now.

Learning Outcomes

Field trips to the I&M Canal Boat can teach and reinforce a variety of social science and history themes that meet the Illinois State Board of Education's Illinois Learning Standards for grades 5 through 11. Among them:

- Understanding U.S. economic systems
- Explaining the economic impacts of invention, technology and entrepreneurship
- Understanding events, trends, individuals and movements shaping Illinois and US history
- Analyzing, historical and contemporary developments using methods of historical inquiry
- Analyzing the impact of westward expansion on the US economy
- Analyzing the effects of technology on human productivity, comfort and the environment

Curriculum Connections

The I&M Canal ties in with a number of themes taught in U. S. History classes, including Westward Expansion, Transportation, Immigration, and Urbanization. These activities meet elements of goals 15 and 16 for the Illinois Learning Standards.

Group Size

The boat can accommodate up to 70 students, has a restroom, and is wheelchair accessible. There is a city park and state trail adjacent to the site for activities and ample room for a picnic lunch. A shelter and picnic tables are available.

Schedule & Fare

Basic I&M Canal Boat Visit (All Grades) Offered May through October

\$400

A LaSalle Canal Boat tour includes a 15 min Mule Tending 101 Class where students will learn how the mules that pull the canal boat are cared for and a 60 minute narrated ride on the I&M Canal Boat with crew dressed in period clothing and a guide.

Available 9:00AM-3:00PM

Allow 1.5 hours

Capacity: 70 passengers per ride

A city park and state trail is adjacent to the site with ample room for a picnic lunch.

Enhanced I&M Canal Boat Visit (All Grades) Offered May through October

\$425

In addition to what's included in the Basic Visit students will go on a 30 minute guided silhouette walk and meet 13 people connected with the I&M Canal including Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln, Wild Bill Hickok, and Chief Shabbona among others.

Available 9:00AM-3:00PM

Allow 2 hours

Capacity: 70 passengers per ride

A city park and state trail is adjacent to the site with ample room for a picnic lunch.

Smaller Groups

If your group is interested in visiting without renting the entire boat, group fares for students are \$8 per person. One teacher rides free per every 20 students. Chaperone fares for school groups are \$13 per person. Add \$1 per person for the silhouette walk.

Group Reservations & Information

To make a reservation and design a half-day visit, which meets your teaching goals, contact us at (815)220-1848 or email lasallecanalboat.org.