

Children and Families of the Past



Come see where two real Charleston families lived and worked 200 years ago.

Children and Families of the Past is a student education program designed for kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade hosted by the historic house museums of Historic Charleston Foundation.

Standards addressed:

For Kindergarten: K-4.1, K-4.2, K-4.3, K-4.4

For 1st Grade: 1-4.1, 1-4.2, 1-4.3, 1-4.4

For 2nd Grade: 2-1.3, 2-2.4, 2-3.2, 2-3.4, 2-4.1, 2-4.2, 2-4.3



Program Overview

Dear Educators,

Children and Families of the Past is a South Carolina kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade program designed by educators at Historic Charleston Foundation. Students will visit two properties as a part of this program:

Nathaniel Russell House Museum, c. 1808

Aiken-Rhett House Museum, c. 1820



The purpose of *Children and Families of the Past* is to immerse students into the past by visiting two authentic properties located in historic Charleston. Program content includes differences between the past and present, a look at family life in the past, how technology and transportation has changed over time, occupations and trade, making choices, the role of governmental leaders, and cultural contributions of minorities. Students will be completely immersed into the daily life of two of Charleston's families and get hands on as they explore life in the past.

Thank you for considering this program for your students. We are confident that after experiencing *Children and Families of the Past*, you will agree that this field experience is the perfect method to illustrate and reinforce what is being learned in your classroom.

Museums and Program Information

Step into the South Carolina's past during the 1800s from the perspective of the Russell family and Aiken family. Students will experience two very different house museums led by educators at both sites.



Nathaniel Russell House c. 1808

Nathaniel Russell and his family lived at **51 Meeting Street** and Mr. Russell ran his merchant business right in his home. He had to work without technology such as computers or even ink pens as he met with clients who wanted to export staple South Carolina crops such as indigo, cotton, and rice. Inside the house, students will see the original office, dining room, family room, bedroom, and drawing room. Daily life in the 1800s was a lot different than today and your students will be able to point out how communication, family roles, technology, plumbing, work, décor, and traditions have changed over time. Students will also explore what it would have been like to be a child in the 19th century by playing with period toys and games.

Aiken-Rhett House c. 1820

William Aiken Jr. was a rice planter and the governor of South Carolina in the 19th century. He and his family lived in their mansion at **48 Elizabeth Street**. Students will learn how a family would have lived in the past by touring original kitchens, stables, bedrooms, and carriage houses. Students will learn all about changes in technology and transportation from the past up until now by experiencing real places and touching artifacts related to daily life and culture. For students who have already been taught about slavery*, they will see how enslaved Africans would have lived and worked in a large home and what life after freedom looked like for the Gullah people. While on tour in the house, students will be looking for items and listening for answers to questions on a scavenger hunt.



*Due to the sensitive nature of the topic of slavery, please let the Education Coordinator know if you have discussed it in your classroom prior to your field trip. Only spending 15 minutes on this major part of American history would not do it justice. If your students have not already learned about slavery it will be delicately mentioned.

Information for Your Students

Here are some helpful content questions to review with your students before visiting:

What do you think it was like to live in the past? Was it difficult to be a child in the past?
Do you think people had electricity, plumbing, or technology in the past? What did they have?
How has communication, transportation, lighting, and technology changed over time?
What are some typical jobs people had in the past and do they still exist today?
How are the lives of people in South Carolina different than other people around the country?
How did people obtain goods and services that they needed in the past?
What are some goods that were produced in South Carolina and how did people buy/sell them?
What makes up a cultural region in the US? How did African Americans contribute?
What are some contributions of the Gullah people in the southeast?
How would families in the past make choices about their daily life? Are those similar to today?

House Rules

Also please make sure you share these tips with your students before their arrival:



Just like at school, we have a few house rules. These houses are about 200 years old! That means these houses and the furniture inside are fragile. When you come in the house, the students will have lots of questions and be very excited which we love! Explain to the students that no one is allowed to run or touch/sit on the furniture in the house (even the staff) and to stay behind the ropes. To ask a question, simply raise your hand and our staff would love to answer any questions they have about the house, time period, the families, and the items inside. We also ask that the students do not talk loudly when inside and make sure they are quiet going from room to room or when another student is asking a question. But of course if your guide asks you a question, please tell your students to share their answer! At one house students will be working on a scavenger hunt and they will be marking their answers with stickers or stamps. We ask that these stay on their paper and not on anything else. While students are not allowed to touch things in the house, we will have some touch artifacts that the staff will pass around for the students to touch and interact with. Also, students will have the opportunity to go outside and play games which is a time to run around and be loud! Encourage your students to have great listening ears and looking eyes so that they can learn all they can from this new and exciting experience. We hope they will have a great time on this field trip that they can remember for a lifetime.

Scheduling & Logistics

Teachers and representatives should contact the Education Coordinator to request a reservation form and ask any questions. Email education@historiccharleston.org or call 843-724-8491.

Program Fee

Children and Families of the Past costs \$8/student which includes both the Nathaniel Russell House and the Aiken-Rhett House. Teachers are free and chaperones are \$6/each. We do have a Title I discount, so if your school falls into this category please let us know and you will receive that rate.

Capacity

Due to the space constraints in the houses, we can only have 50 students in the house at a time. Our capacity for this program is 100 students, so 50 students on one bus would head to the Aiken-Rhett while 50 students would head to the Nathaniel Russell on the other bus. If you have fewer than 50 students, the group would all stay together to go to one house and then the other. We ask that each group of 50 be split into 3 equal groups with chaperones and teachers with each small group. This will allow the students to see and hear everything better and rotate through the house.

Snack and Lunch

Lunch will not be until 12 so if your students are used to eating much earlier you might want to have them eat a snack on the bus while in transit from one house to the other. Good places for lunch after the field trip are the Battery, Washington Square, and Wragg Mall.

Schedule

This field trip lasts 2.5 hours including travel time in between house museums. Typically the program begins at 9:30 and ends with lunch at 12 in a nearby park. We are flexible to fit your scheduling needs and accommodate buses if alternate times are needed. Buses can park near both historic houses. Here is what the schedule typically looks like:

Bus #1- 50 students split into 3 groups, chaperons and teachers w/ each group

9:30-10:30 Nathaniel Russell House 51 Meeting St

Bus returns at 10:30 (built in wiggle room if bus is late)

11-12 Aiken-Rhett House 48 Elizabeth St

12-12:30 lunch in park and departure

Bus #2- 50 students split into 3 groups, chaperons and teachers w/ each group

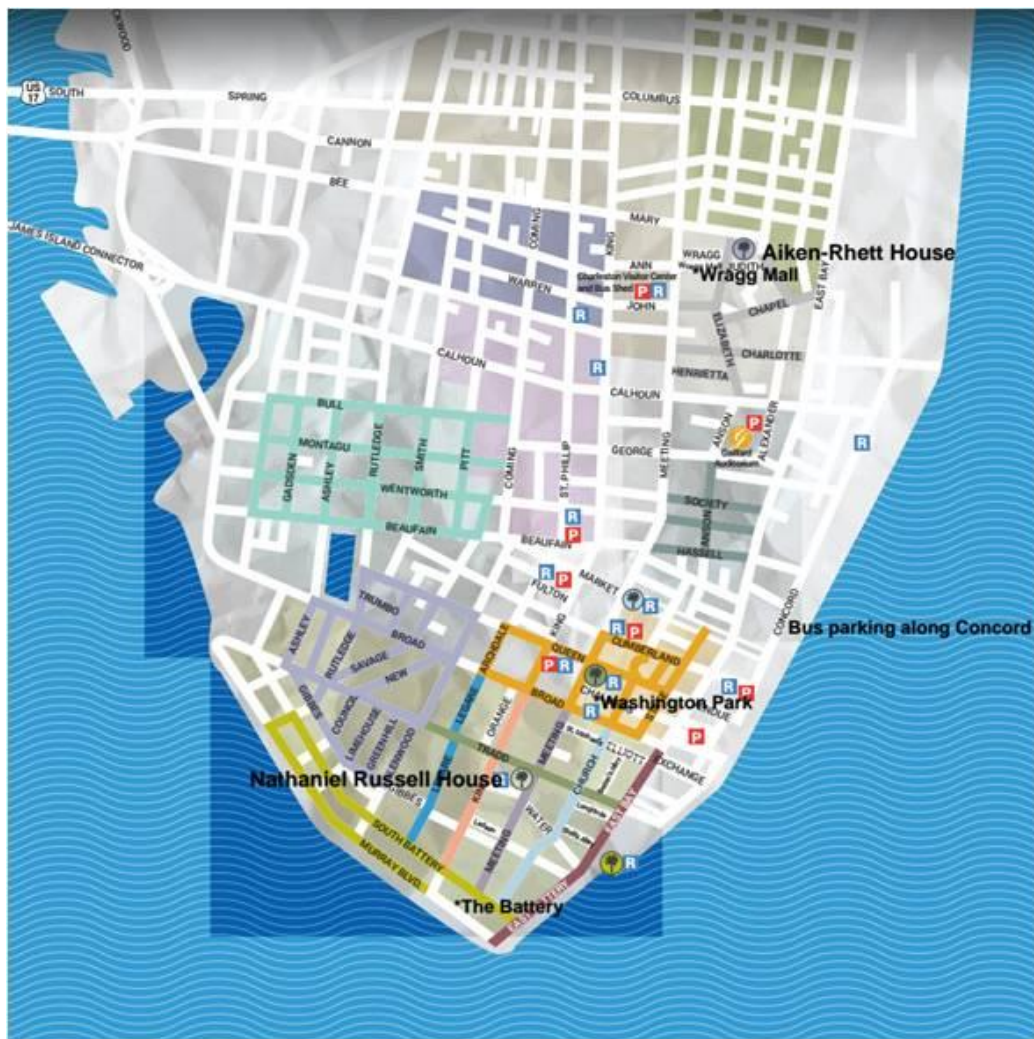
9:30-10:30 Aiken-Rhett House 48 Elizabeth St

Bus returns at 10:30 (built in wiggle room if bus is late)

11-12 Nathaniel Russell House 51 Meeting St

12-12:30 lunch in park and departure

Use this map for directional help:



For more information please visit:

www.historiccharleston.org/education