



Schenectady County
Historical Society
32 Washington Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12305
www.schenectadyhistorical.org

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School Programs



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Our Sites

The Schenectady County Historical Society

The Schenectady County Historical Society was chartered in 1905, and today we continue the tradition of preserving our history and educating the public. We have two different addresses and three different facilities that you and your students can visit.

Mabee Farm Historic Site - Rotterdam Junction

The Mabee Farm Historic Site is where visitors can find the oldest house still standing in the Mohawk Valley as well as a number of outbuildings and modern exhibits. The Jan Mabee House (also known as the Stone House) dates from around 1705 and remained in the Mabee family for almost three centuries. In 1993, George Franchere, last descendant of Jan Mabee to own the property, made a gift of the Mabee Farm property to the Schenectady County Historical Society.

Grem's-Doolittle Library and Archives - Schenectady

Interested in learning more about local history and genealogy? The Library collects, preserves, and makes available materials that document the people and history of Schenectady County and its environs. Library holdings include books, periodicals, oral histories, newspapers, maps, photographs, personal and family papers, and records of Schenectady County schools, businesses, churches, and other organizations.

Schenectady County Museum - Schenectady

Built in 1895 in the Stockade District, the original building has had several expansions and today houses a number of exhibits pertaining to the history of Schenectady County. The main rotating gallery has featured exhibits on everything from Schenectady's professional African American baseball team the Mohawk Colored Giants to the fashion, family, and faith of women in the Victorian era.



Mabee Farm

Museum & Library

Colonial Kids: The Life of Abraham and Maria Mabee

Grade Levels: K - 5th

How different was life for the Mabees in the Colonial Era? Students will explore the lives of two of the Mabee children who moved with their parents from Schenectady to the Woestina in the early 18th Century.

History Mysteries: Exploring the Lives of the Colonial Mabees

Grade Levels: 6th - 12th

Examining primary source documents, artifacts, and historic architecture, students will learn to think like a curator and piece together the story of the early Mabee family.

The Apprentice: Colonial Trades and Professions

Grade Levels: 2nd - 8th

How well can you cook, blacksmith, weave, and farm? From a young age, the Mabees chose their trade. Visit the Farm to try your hand as an apprentice in several of the professions available to the early Mabee family.

Moving the Mohawk: Transportation Through The Years

Grade Levels: 4th - 8th

Surrounded by the Mohawk River, the Erie Canal, railways, and the NY State Thruway, Mabee Farm's placement at the gateway to the West is the perfect location to explore the impact of transportation on our nation's history.

Mabee Farm Teacher's Tour

Open to all school or homeschool faculty or staff

Teachers and administrators will receive a behind the scenes look at the Mabee Farm Historic Site. The workshop will include a guided tour of the historic buildings, access to the site's rotating exhibits, and a consultation with the Educator to build the perfect school program for each classroom.

Early Schenectady: Our Colonial Beginnings

Grade levels: 2nd - 4th

Students will explore Schenectady's beginnings, learning about the importance of the fur trade to the community, comparing a colonial map and a modern map, encountering images of Schenectady's early settlement, seeing an original 1670 land agreement between the Mohawks and Dutch settlers, and walking through the historic Stockade neighborhood.

A Mule Named Sal: The Erie Canal in Schenectady

Grade levels: 2nd - 6th

This field trip focuses on the nineteenth century in Schenectady, exploring the technology of the Erie Canal and how it transformed transportation, businesses, and daily life in the community. Students compare historic photos of the canal to modern images, see original artifacts from the lock system, and learn a song about life on the Erie Canal.

The Electric City: Industrialization and Immigration, 1880-1920

Grade levels: 7th - 12th

Students learn about the industries that drew over 75,000 people to Schenectady in the period between 1880 and 1920. Through primary source documents, photographs, art, and artifacts, students discover the ethnic groups that contributed to Schenectady's growth and redefined the city's culture, neighborhoods, businesses, and politics.

Vote Here! Vote Now! Dialog & Debate: Your Voice Counts

Grade levels: 4th - 12th

Did you know that your voice can change history? Our elected officials have had a tremendous impact on Schenectady's history, from the presidential elections on down. This field trip explores the role of individual voices in the electoral process and how those elections shape our history.



Booking Your Program

Book your visit or learn more about bringing students to visit our sites by calling 518-887-5073 or emailing educator@schenectadyhistorical.org. We are also very happy to work with schools to bring programs to the classroom.

Rates

Programs at the Library and the Museum are \$3.00 per student. Traveling programs to schools cost \$6.00, and at the Mabee Farm Historic Site, most programs are \$7.00.

Chaperones

To ensure the best program possible, we require one chaperone for every 10 participants under the age of 16. Chaperones must remain with their groups at all times. Any chaperones beyond the 1/10 ratio will be asked to pay admission.

Food

Although we do not provide food service on site, groups visiting the Mabee Farm Historic Site are welcome to eat at the picnic tables under our new Solar Pavilion. Groups visiting the Museum and Library are welcome to eat behind the building, although there is no rain location available.

Cancellations

In the event of weather related school closings, all Schenectady County Historical Society sites are closed. Cancellations must occur a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the start of the scheduled program or your school will be billed for the full cost.

Weather

Students should arrive dressed for the elements, especially for trips to the Mabee Farm Historic Site. Depending on the day, this could mean hot and humid temperatures, rain, wind, or even snow. Please do your best to ensure your students will be comfortable during their visit.



Photograph by Ann Aronson

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