

Destination Ag: Policies and Procedures

Review the Lead Teacher Guide for all information regarding your field trip or visit online at gma.abac.edu/destinationag.

Programming

- A full day of programming includes four 30-minute sessions (20-minutes for PreK) and a 30-minute lunch. An arrival time by 9:30 am and departure time of 1:10pm (12:30 for PreK) is highly suggested for a full day of programming.
- Later arrival times and earlier departure times are possible, but will reduce the number of sessions provided. Discuss any time issues with Museum staff **BEFORE** your field trip.
- Destination Ag programming **does not** include visiting the Historic Village buildings or riding the train. If you are interested in booking a historic program in the Historic Village, please visit us [online](#).

Free Time

- Free Time is included for all on-site field experiences and will be assigned during one of the sessions. For late arrivals or early departures, Free Time will still be included in your session rotation.
- No Museum staff are assigned during the Free Time session. Teachers are responsible for their students.
- More than one visiting school group may be assigned to Free Time during the same session.
- Teachers may lead their students to the pollinator garden or visiting DA livestock during Free Time. Please only visit these locations and do not disturb other lessons if in progress.

Safety

- As most programming is outside, there are safety considerations of which everyone should be aware. Please share these with your students and adults.
- Destination Ag has a pollinator garden and observation hive! Please inform those who have bee allergies aware that the garden and the hive are located on-site at the Museum.
- Keep an eye out for fire ants. Be aware of where you are standing at all times.
- Do not feed or pet any animals unless given permission by staff.
- Stay hydrated! We suggest bringing water bottles; however, water stations will be available during extremely hot days.
- First aid kits are available for teachers/chaperones to use. Ask a Destination Ag staff member if the need arises.

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Museum Teaching Groups

- A couple of weeks prior to the trip, the Museum will provide the names of the teaching groups your school is assigned, which is correlated to the number of classrooms visiting. Classrooms may have to be dissolved into teaching groups to ensure all students from your school can attend on the assigned days.
- Please assign the teaching group names and inform all adults (including chaperones) and students **before** programming day. This will allow for a quicker transition from bus unloading to orientation.
- Each teaching group is led by an adult group leader provided by the school. This is usually a classroom teacher.
- Please do not change the number or names of the teaching groups provided by the Museum.
- The Museum reserves the right to adjust the number of teaching groups and group leaders based on your student numbers upon arrival.
- Please contact us prior to your visit if there are any additional needs (allergies, wheelchair users, visually impaired, etc.) that we should be aware of. This will allow our instructors to better prepare for your visit.

What to Bring/Wear

- Students and adults should wear closed-toed shoes and dress appropriately for the weather (including rain).
- Water bottles are highly suggested during the warmer months and jackets/sweaters are recommended for the cooler months as the students will be outside during their field trip.

Arrival

- Please arrive on time to allow time for check-in and using the restroom. If you arrive later, you may miss some parts of programming. If you are running late, please contact us as soon as possible at 229/391-5205.
- Upon arrival, check-in at the Country Store. The lead teacher should enter the Country Store to provide the total number of students attending and to receive wrist bands for any students who did not bring a signed media release form. All students and other teachers should remain on the bus for announcements by Museum staff.
- Parents and extra chaperones must pay Museum general admission in the Country Store. (Monday: \$4.00 + tax; Tuesday-Friday: \$9.00 + tax for adults, \$5.00 + tax for children 5+)
- Bus drivers, teachers, para-pros, and teachers assistants receive free admission.
- After check-in, drive through the gate and park the buses along the south end of the large parking lot where the Museum staff will be located.

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Lunch

- Your group will need to bring sack lunches which can be eaten at the Opry Shelter.
- Restrooms are also available at this location.
- Please assist us in keeping the Museum clean and remind your students and adults to throw away all garbage including in the restrooms.
- Thirty-minutes is allotted for lunch. Please stay on time so your afternoon sessions are not delayed.
- Tuesdays through Fridays, the Historic Village Drug Store will sell lunch for adults only. Adults are welcome to purchase lunch and eat in the Opry Shelter. There is a minimum of a \$5 purchase for credit/debit cards.

Teacher Hospitality Area

- Teachers can enjoy a complimentary coffee on us!
- The 'Teacher Refuel Station' is Destination Ag's teacher hospitality area inside the Opry Shelter and available for school staff.
- Various snacks and drinks are provided at no cost for school staff (not intended to supplement lunch).

Severe Weather

- Programming will occur rain or shine unless severe weather is imminent.
- The Museum reserves the right to close the facilities if severe weather is approaching or forecasted for a particular day. Museum staff will reschedule your trip if this occurs.
- If your school decides not to attend due to weather and the Museum remains open, it is up to you to call and reschedule. The Museum cannot guarantee availability on a later date as our books fill quickly.

Media Release Forms

- Upon entering the GMA, all visitors (including youth groups for programming purposes) grant the GMA the irrevocable permission to use his or her image, likeness, voice or sound recordings in any media for the purpose whatsoever without compensation.
- Please have all students and teachers/parapros complete a media release form prior to the field trip.
- If a child is unable to have their image taken, please let the Country Store know at check-in and a sticker or armband will be provided for the child.
- All completed media release forms can be given to GMA staff during orientation at the Opry Shelter.

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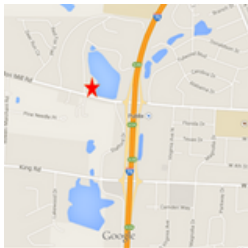
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Extra Chaperones/Parents

- Mondays: Parents and extra chaperones attending must pay Museum general admission, \$4/adult (+ tax), at the Country Store (before the gate). The Historic Village (including the Drug Store for lunches) is closed on Mondays; however, the Museum Gallery and Main Hall are open. Adults paying general admission are welcome to visit the Gallery and Main Hall after Destination Ag programming (open 9am to 3pm).
- Tuesday through Friday : Parents and extra chaperones attending must pay Museum general admission, \$9/adult (+ tax), at the Country Store (before the gate). Adults paying general admission are welcome to visit the Historic Village (including the Drug Store), Museum Gallery, and Museum Main Hall after Destination Ag programming. The Museum is open 9am to 3pm.
- Once they pay general admission, parents and chaperones may drive through the gate and meet the buses in the back parking lot.
- All adults are welcome to join the activities and fun! We suggest adults play an active role in the program and not stand along the sidelines. Please let your adults know we may ask them to assist.

Directions

Physical Address: ABAC's Georgia
Museum of Agriculture
1392 Whiddon Mill Rd
Tifton, GA 31794



Traveling Interstate 75–North

Exit 63B, turn left off ramp and 1st building on right.

Traveling Interstate 75–South

Exit 63B, turn right off ramp and 1st building on right.

