



Self-Guided Tour Field Trip Planner

ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture is excited for your students to journey through a historic South Georgia wiregrass community. A successful learning experience requires preparation. This information will ensure a smooth-flowing day for you, your adults, and your students.

1. Review the information inside this packet to plan your trip and understand Museum policies.
2. If you have not already done so, please register [online](#) using this link. Learn more about field trips and our attractions at <https://gma.abac.edu/education/historic-field-trips/>.

3. Field trips are not confirmed until you receive an email from the Museum confirming the date of your field trip.

Use the Self-Guided Tour Checklist provided in this packet to prepare for your field trip.

CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Self-Guided Tour Checklist	2
Self-Guided Tour Specifics	4
Policies	5
Directions	9
Contact Information	9
Map	10
Permission Letter	11
Group Leader Letter	12
Field Trip Reminder Letter	13



Introduction

ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture is where history comes alive, recreating farm and rural village life in Wiregrass Georgia from 1870-1910. The self-guided tour shows students how people lived and worked in a historic rural Georgia Wiregrass community. For groups of any size and age, this self-guided exploration of the Museum and 95-acre site makes for an exciting and educational visit.

Costumed interpreters throughout the Historic Village will answer questions, describe artifacts and buildings, and demonstrate life as it was during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Our site includes period farmhouses, an operating water-powered grist mill, a print shop, a one-room schoolhouse, and many more buildings. Also open for touring is our Museum of Agriculture and Art Gallery. Don't forget to stop by our 1900s Drug Store which sells drinks, floats, delicious hand-dipped ice cream, and lunch combos.

Self-Guided Tour Checklist

Prior to your visit:

- Read through this packet to ensure a successful field trip.
- Reserve the tentative field trip date [online](#). A reservation confirmation will be sent via email to verify the availability of that date and your registration.
 - Georgia public schools and Georgia accredited private schools may qualify for sales tax exemption. Please provide the school's Georgia sales tax exempt number when reserving a date and provide proof upon check-in.
- Review the reservation confirmation letter to ensure accuracy. Contact the Museum if any changes are necessary.
- Arrange transportation.
- Make lunch plans. The Opry Shelter is available for your use during lunch. See the [Lunch](#) section in Policies.
- Send permission slips ([Permission Letter](#)) home to parents.
- Confirm your student and adult attendance numbers with the Museum no later than **two weeks** prior to arrival. Your number of groups will drop if your student numbers reduce drastically.
 - Notify the Museum of any special needs.



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- ❑ Make payment arrangements. Payments for students and school personnel should be made with one check, credit card, or purchase order. Parents and extra visitors with the school may pay separately.
 - ❑ **All guests with your group will need to pay admission at the Country Store** (including schools/groups and extra adults or children).
 - ❑ **Admission is free for teachers, para pros, bus drivers, and other school staff during their school's scheduled field trip.**
 - ❑ Divide students into groups of 10 students per one group leader (provided by your school). The Museum will provide you with the number of groups. This number is located on your reservation confirmation letter.
 - ❑ Meet with Group Leaders and provide them with the Museum policies, leader responsibilities, and directions ([Group Leader Letter](#)). **Please communicate policies with Group Leaders!** Well-informed chaperones will allow for a smooth-running field trip.
 - **Don't forget to assign adults to assist in carrying and distributing school sack lunches to the Opry Shelter Picnic Area.**
 - ❑ Review behavior expectations with students and remind them what to wear.
 - ❑ Send home [Fieldtrip Reminder Letter](#) with this information 1-2 days prior to the trip.

Upon Arrival:

- ❑ **Provide proof of Georgia sales tax exemption.**
- ❑ Allow 20-30 minutes for check-in.
- ❑ Instruct everyone to remain on the bus while you go into the Country Store to pay.
- ❑ At this time, all other chaperones besides group leaders, teachers, and bus drivers **must pay admission** at the Country Store.
- ❑ Provide the final counts of students, chaperones, and teaching/school staff to Country Store personnel, who will finalize your registration details, accept payment, and provide parking instructions.
- ❑ After check-in at the Country Store, drive around to the back parking lot which faces I-75. Drive to the front of the Museum Atrium to unload students.
 - After unloading students, buses can park along the south side of the Museum parking lot (near wooden fence), away from the main entrance



to the Museum. There will be no parking on grassy areas or anywhere else on-site besides the parking lot.

- Museum staff will greet students as they unload the bus and provide a brief orientation.
- Students will then be led to the restrooms at the Atrium, and from there the students can be divided into their groups with a chaperone.
- Ensure all chaperones know when and where to meet for lunch. Make sure group leaders have necessary materials (maps, list of students in group, etc.).

Self-Guided Tour Specifics

The Self-Guided Tours are a wonderful option for groups with limited time, with large numbers of students only able to visit for one day, and/or for school systems on a tight budget. However, please be aware that you will **probably not be the only group on-site that day**. We often have multiple groups participating in workshops or tours on any given day. Below is a quick list of reminders to assist in your planning. Please **share these reminders with your adults** so they fully comprehend what to expect from the trip.

- Tours are welcome to visit any attraction (as long as it is open) at their own pace. Interpreters are available in most attractions.
- Tours **do not** include a historic lunch with their programming. If you enter a house while a workshop is eating, please be respectful and do not ask to join the meal. Please wait to enter the building with your group until the workshop lunch is completed.
- The Drug Store can become very busy in the afternoon with workshops. We suggest tour groups visit the Drug Store prior to lunch to avoid crowding. During this time students can purchase ice cream, snacks, or souvenirs. Store items cost between \$0.19 to \$20+. We appreciate your patience and assistance to ensure students know what they want and have their money before they reach the register. **There is a \$5.00 minimum purchase when using a credit/debit card.**
- Group leaders and teachers are responsible for their student's behavior. Please make sure to keep your group together and be respectful of the surroundings. Many of the attractions are from the original time period.
- Don't forget the Spinks Exhibit Hall! The entrance to this is in the Atrium. Groups are welcome to explore this area; however, please be mindful of the artifacts and watch students at all times. No food, drink, or **climbing** of any



kind is allowed. Please do not permit students to climb on or into equipment or vehicles, or to pick up and handle artifacts.

- If damage occurs, the school/group responsible will be held liable for any monetary restitution for repair/replacement.

Policies

Hours

The Museum and Village are open for tours Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. during the months of September through December and February through June. *Summer hours in July are reduced to 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hours are also reduced in January to Saturdays only, and we are closed to the public in August.*

Cost & Payment

Tour cost is \$8.00 per student. Weekday admission for adults is \$10.00. **All guests with your group will need to pay admission at the Country Store (including schools/groups and extra adults or children).** No deposit is required.

To receive group rates, all money must be collected in advance within your group and paid at the Country Store by your group leader.

Payment is due the day you visit upon check-in at the Country Store. No payments will be taken at the Museum or Village. We accept Visa, MasterCard, cash, and checks. All checks should be made payable to the Georgia Museum of Agriculture.

Please bring proof of your Georgia sales tax exempt status when you arrive, if this is applicable. No refunds are offered for overpayment. Please have an accurate count of your students before paying.

Sales Taxes Exemption

Any school or state agency within the state of GA is sales-tax exempt on admission, school workshop/tour, and rental fees. They are NOT sales-tax exempt on catering, or any food/candy purchase made at the Country Store or Drug Store. **Please be advised if your group is from out-of-state, you will be required to pay GA sales tax of 8% on rental, workshop/tour, and admission.** Any extra adults (beyond group leaders, teachers, and bus drivers) will NOT be sales-tax exempt unless the eligible school pays for the adults' admission.



Severe Weather

The Museum holds the right to close the facilities if severe weather is approaching and will call schools to reschedule if this occurs. Museum personnel will call schools to reschedule if this occurs. However, schools deciding to cancel their scheduled visit due to weather even if the Museum remains open must reschedule on their own accord. The Museum cannot guarantee availability for planned activities on a later date.

Steam Engine

A train ride is **not** part of the self-guided tour; however, a train ride can be a thrilling addition to a tour! The train runs every Saturday, (except for the month of August) but does not run during the week. If you would like to include the train in your weekday visit, you must notify us to reserve the train no later than two weeks prior to your visit. This will ensure that we have time to schedule an engineer and conductors. If we receive less than two weeks' notice, we cannot guarantee a train reservation. Please note there is an additional charge for inclusion of the train in your tour, as follows:

≤ 60 riders (students)	61+ riders (students)
\$400 base rate	\$6.50/person

Arrival

Groups must arrive on time to keep their reservation. Please have the students remain on the bus while one person goes into the Country Store to pay.

What to Wear

Adults and children should wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing appropriate to the weather. We recommend wearing closed-toe shoes as the trip involves walking on dirt and/or grass paths and avoiding fire ants. Please plan for the weather and remind students to bring jackets/sweaters when necessary. We operate in all kinds of weather (except severe thunderstorms/ tornados).



Group Leaders

The Museum's Education Department will decide on the number of groups based upon your total student numbers. **We reserve the right to reduce the number of groups if your student numbers drop drastically.** Please update your numbers with us no fewer than two weeks prior to your visit. The number of groups for your school is provided on your Reservation Confirmation form.

Teachers should be sure all group leaders understand their duties before the visit.

Group leaders should:

- ✓ Ensure students in his/her group behave appropriately.
- ✓ Assist the interpreters in providing a positive learning experience.
- ✓ Remain with their students at all times and help them move through the Village and Museum.
- ✓ Assist students with their purchases while visiting the Drug Store.

Lunch

The Opry Shelter is available for your use. You may unload your lunches and take them to the Opry Shelter upon arrival. However, buses and vehicles are not permitted to drive up to the Opry Shelter. Our Drug Store also offers daily lunch combos. Please let the Museum know if you'd like to order lunches in advance.

Safety

The Museum's goal is to provide an educational and interactive learning experience; however, many of the structures, fences, and items in the Village and Museum are antiques. Please no handling of these items or climbing on fences or well covers. Please do not feed or pet farm animals or livestock, unless instructed to do so by an interpreter. There is one observation beehive at the Destination Ag site which is labeled with a bee advisory. **Please inform those who have bee allergies that hives are located on-site and encourage them to take necessary medical precautions when visiting such as bringing an epi-pen or Benadryl.**



Photography

Still or video photography is welcomed on our site for personal, non-commercial use only. No tripods, please. During your visit, you may be photographed for promotional purposes by the Museum and Village staff. **If you do not wish to be photographed or if you have a child who cannot be photographed, please request a special sticker during check-in at the Country Store.**

Overnight Accommodations

If your group requires overnight accommodations, please let us know. We will be happy to assist you.

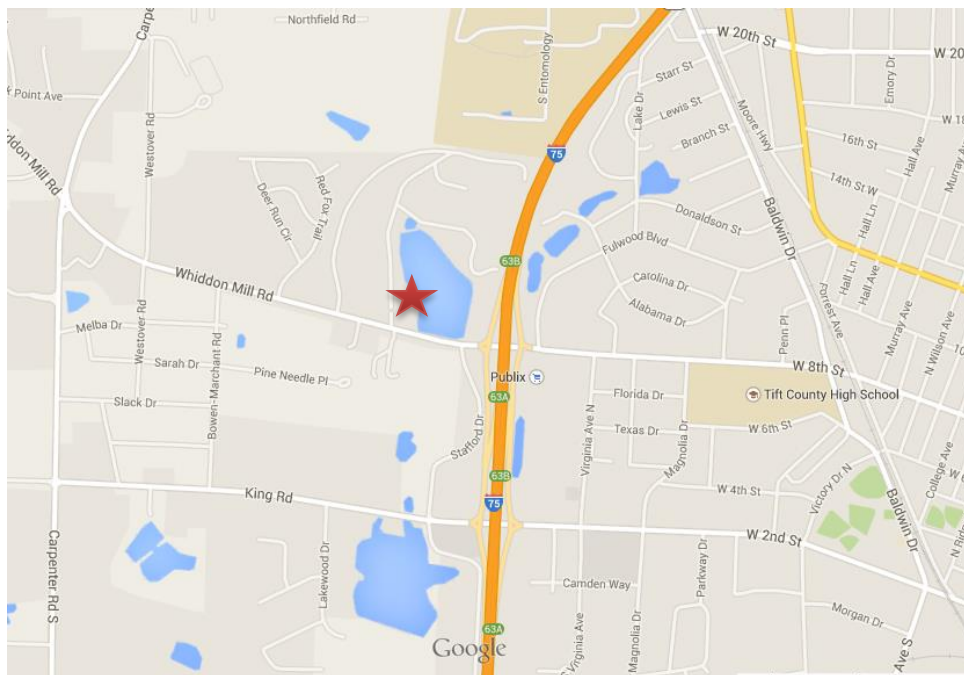
Booking

[Online reservations](#) are required for the Self-Guided Tour. **Your tour is not reserved until you receive a reservation confirmation from the Museum's Education Department.**



Directions

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village is located in Tifton, GA, at exit 63B on I-75. For those using a GPS system, our physical address is 1392 Whiddon Mill Rd., Tifton, GA, 31793. Please check-in at the Tifton Welcome Center/Country Store before proceeding to the Museum and Village.



Contact Information

Chloe Holbrook, Historic Area Supervisor, (229) 391-5213

Kelly Scott, Assistant Director, (229) 391-5221

Country Store, (229) 391-5205

museum@abac.edu



Map

Maps will be provided at check-in at the Country Store (red star on the map below).

Welcome!

ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village

Tuesday - Friday 9am - 3pm Saturday 9am - 4pm

KEY

ERA	DESCRIPTION
TRADITIONAL URBAN SETTLEMENT 1870'S	1. Clark Cabin 2. Simon's / James' Cabin 3. School House 4. Church 5. Gibbs Farm 6. Gibbs House 7. Cane Shed 8. Train Depot 9. Cravey House
PROGRESSIVE FARMSTEAD 1890'S	10. Grist Mill 11. Langdale Nature Center
INDUSTRIAL SITES COMPLEX	12. Saw Mill 13. Turpentine Still 13a. Cooper Shed 14. Knight Cabin 15. Blacksmith Shop 16. Variety Works 17. Commissary 18. Print Shop
MAIN STREET	19. Feed & Seed 20. Mercantile 21. Drug Store 22. Cotton Gin
1900'S	23. Masonic Lodge 24. Doctor's Office 25. Herb Garden 26. Tift House 27. Clyatt Cabin 28. Art Gallery 29. Museum - Main Hall 30. National Peanut Museum

Restroom

8TH STREET / WHIDDON MILL RD.

LAKE

SERVICE ROAD

NATURE TRAIL

ADMINISTRATION

STATION

COMPASS

Unload

BUS PARKING

EXIT 63B

75

Georgia's Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village opened as the Agrirama on July 4, 1976. The grounds consist of five areas: a traditional farm community of the 1870s, an 1890s progressive farmstead, an industrial sites complex, rural town, national peanut complex, and the Museum of Agriculture Center. Over 35 structures have been relocated to the 95-acre site and faithfully restored or preserved. Costumed interpreters explain and demonstrate the life-style and activities of this time in Georgia's history.

Thank you for visiting!

Unload buses at the Museum Main Hall (#29 on map). Historic Village staff will greet you in front of the Museum. Buses should park at the south end of lot (in front of the Clyatt Cabin, #27 on map).



Permission Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to announce our field trip to ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture scheduled for _____. During their visit, students will explore a historic Georgia wiregrass community. Further information will be provided at a later date. Please complete the permission slip below and return it to your teacher.

ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture Field Trip

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

Will attend

Will not attend

Parent's Signature: _____



Group Leader Letter

We are excited to have you join our Self-Guided Tour at ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture scheduled for _____. During our visit, we will be able to explore the grounds at our own pace. As a group leader, you will be responsible for a small group of students. Please review the following information to ensure a safe, fun, and exciting experience.

Group Leaders should...

- ✓ Ensure students in his/her group behave appropriately.
- ✓ Assist the Museum staff in providing a positive learning experience.
- ✓ Remain with the students at all times and help them move through the Historic Village.
- ✓ Assist students with their purchases while visiting the Drug Store.

Students in your group:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

Contact the lead teacher if you have any questions and visit the GMA website to learn more at <https://gma.abac.edu/historic-field-trips/>.



Field Trip Reminder Letter

Our class is scheduled to visit ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture
_____. Please remember the following:

1. Arrive to school on time so we may arrive to the Museum on schedule.
2. Ensure your child wears comfortable shoes (no sandals or flip-flops).
3. Prepare accordingly for weather (sunscreen, water bottle, jacket, poncho, umbrella, etc.).
4. Indicate below the type of lunch your student will have for that day and return the bottom portion tomorrow.

Don't forget to discuss with your child what he/she experienced during this trip. Allow them to share their adventure with you!

ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture Field Trip

Teacher: _____

Student Name: _____

_____ School packed lunch

_____ Home packed lunch