GETTYSBURG HISTORY

Hands-On History
Group Program Offerings

Our programming has been carefully developed by a team of historians, educators, and licensed battlefield guides. Programs take place in our History Center and are approximately 45 minutes in length. They can be customized to suit your group based on age, desired level of audience participation, and curricular needs.

New for 2026

A Nation Is Born: The American Revolution in Pennsylvania

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of the United States. In 1776, the area that would become Gettysburg lay on Pennsylvania's western frontier, yet it was closely tied to the revolutionary events unfolding across the colonies. As the movement for independence took shape, local residents followed the news, debated its meaning, and answered the call to service. This program explores the American Revolution on a national scale while highlighting how the people of central Pennsylvania experienced and contributed to the founding of the nation.

Our Most Popular Program!

Debris of Battle

From canteens and belt buckles to bullets and artillery shells, authentic objects found in and around Gettysburg form the backbone of this hands-on program. Participants will have the opportunity to handle original Civil War artifacts and learn about the aftermath of the Battle of Gettysburg, including how area residents faced the dangers of gathering and selling these remarkable artifacts to early tourists.

Witnessing Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln spent just 25 hours in Gettysburg, but while he was here, he changed the course of history. This program follows Lincoln's visit step-by-step and highlights dozens of first-hand accounts written by people who witnessed the president deliver the most famous speech of all time.

Gettysburg in Photographs

Explore the captivating history of photography in Gettysburg. Learn about nationally known photographers such as Alexander Gardner and Mathew Brady, as well as locally renowned photographers William Tipton and the Tyson Brothers. Analyze some of the most recognizable photos from America's bloodiest battlefield and uncover the stories behind the lens. Discover how these powerful images shaped public memory and continue to influence our understanding of the Civil War today.

The Eisenhowers at Gettysburg

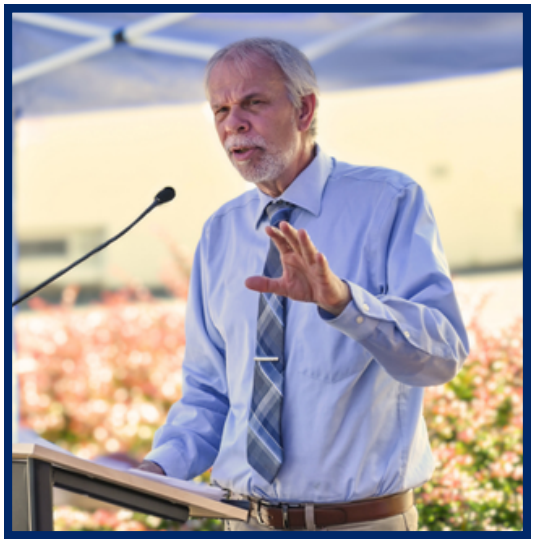
Dwight D. Eisenhower lived in Gettysburg twice–first during WWI, when he led a tank training camp and combatted a deadly pandemic, and again as president, when he entertained foreign leaders and steered the country clear of nuclear war. Explore the life and legacy of our nation's 34th president and his beloved wife, Mamie, through a host of rare Eisenhower images and artifacts from our collection.

Native American Archaeology

Have you ever held a 5,000-year-old spear point in your hand? This program shines a spotlight on our collection of strikingly preserved Native American artifacts unearthed near Gettysburg. We'll discuss the customs and possible uses for each item and some of the techniques archaeologists have employed to decipher the hidden history of Pennsylvania's indigenous peoples. Participants will handle dozens of real Native American artifacts from our collection.

Treasures from Beyond the Battle

From Pennsylvania's Native American history to the Battle of Gettysburg and so much more, this program showcases the rarest artifacts and stories featured in our exhibits. This chronological presentation is a perfect companion to our museum and will enhance your experience as you explore Gettysburg's history "beyond the battle."



Meet Your Instructor

Tim Smith is the Director of Education at Gettysburg History. In addition to being recognized as one of Gettysburg's leading historians, he has published 10 books, numerous articles, and has served as a Licensed Battlefield Guide for more than three decades. Tim is popular on our YouTube page - @GettysburgHistory - where his "Monuments Monday" series has garnered millions of views.

Tim and our entire team are excited to host your group!

Please contact **groups@gettysburghistory.org** for more information.
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