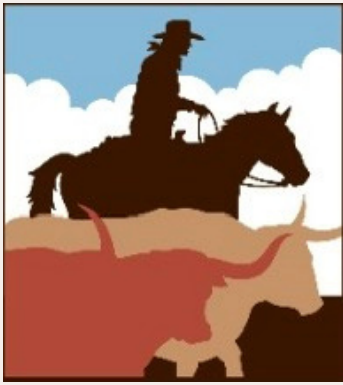




Chisholm Trail **HERITAGE CENTER**



EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Chisholm Trail era was an extraordinary time in our nation's history—and at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, we are passionate about bringing that history to life for students of all ages.

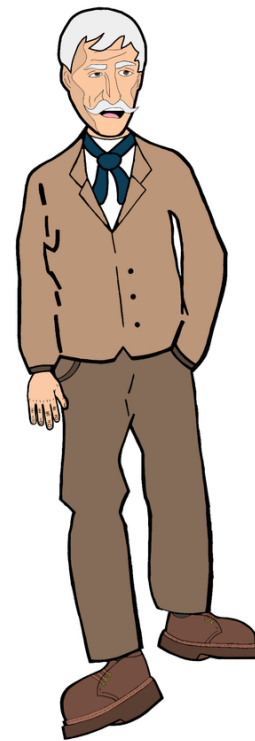
We invite you and your students to experience our engaging, standards-based education programs, where history, art, and culture of the Chisholm Trail, the American Cowboy, and the American West come alive through hands-on learning.

The Heritage Center is not your typical “rusty-dusty” stop-and-stare museum. We are an immersive center for learning, designed to inspire curiosity and empower educators. If you haven't visited recently, you may be excited to discover that:

- All field trips align with Oklahoma Academic Standards and Texas TEKS
- Programs incorporate STEAM initiatives
- Students participate in hands-on, interactive experiences
- Great Expectations—trained staff enhance every student's visit

Our goal is to create meaningful, memorable learning experiences that support classroom instruction while sparking student engagement.

We would love to welcome your school to the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. Please contact us to learn more about scheduling a field trip or customizing a program for your students.



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STUDENT TOURS

The Heritage Center offers student tours for all grades, leading students through interactive and engaging educational sessions.



GRADE-LEVEL TOURS



Grades PreK-2nd:

Animals on the Trail

Explore the animals that roamed the Chisholm Trail through guided learning and interactive experiences. The 2.5–3 hour session includes a lesson, hands-on art project, Experience Theater, Campfire Theater, and access to our interactive area.



Cowboys on the Trail

Saddle up and explore the cowboys' tools of the trade! Learn why each item mattered on a cattle drive while competing in a fun game of bingo, then enjoy a 2.5–3 hour session filled with a hands-on art project, Experience Theater, Campfire Theater, and time to explore our interactive area.



Birds on the Chisholm Trail

Step into the world of birds along the Chisholm Trail! Observe birds in their natural habitat from our bird blind (weather permitting), then dive into a 2.5–3 hour experience filled with a hands-on art project, Experience Theater, Campfire Theater, and time to explore our interactive area.

Grades 3rd – 5th:



January – mid-March: History Heroes

Students will examine the lives and contributions of notable Oklahomans, including Will Rogers, Pearl Carter Scott, Wiley Post, and others, to understand their impact on Oklahoma and American history. Through an interpreter-led, inquiry-based lesson, students will analyze historical sources, engage in hands-on visual art creation, and apply critical-thinking skills during a scavenger hunt in the Garis Gallery of the American West. Students will further explore historical context and cultural perspectives through the Experience Theater, Campfire Theater, and structured exploration of the interactive learning area. **Duration:** 4 hours

Mid-March – end of May: Oklahoma Land Giveaways

Students will investigate the Oklahoma Land Runs and Lotteries, analyzing their causes, processes, and impact on settlement and state development. Through an interpreter-led, inquiry-based lesson, students will participate in a simulated land run to claim a parcel of land and engage in a land office registration activity to model historical land distribution. Students will apply STEAM concepts through a trajectory lesson using paper airplanes, complete a hands-on visual art project, and practice observation and problem-solving skills during a scavenger hunt in the Garis Gallery of the American West. Learning is reinforced through experiences in the Experience Theater, Campfire Theater, and guided exploration of the interactive learning area. **Duration:** 4 hours

September – October: The Abernathy Boys

Students will explore the lives and adventures of Bud and Temple Abernathy, based on the book *Bud & Me*, to understand themes of exploration, resilience, and youth experiences in early 20th-century America. Through an interpreter-led, inquiry-based lesson, students will analyze narrative and historical context, engage in a hands-on visual art project, and examine the role of sound in storytelling through a Foley artist sound-effects activity. Students will apply critical-thinking and observation skills during a scavenger hunt in the Garis Gallery of the American West and deepen their understanding through immersive experiences in the Experience Theater, Campfire Theater, and guided exploration of the interactive learning area. **Duration:** 4 hours

November and December: Holidays on the Trail

Students will examine life on the Chisholm Trail and analyze how cattle drives shaped daily experiences, economic activity, and cultural interactions along the trail. Through an interpreter-led, inquiry-based lesson, students will explore primary and secondary sources, apply mathematical reasoning through a trail-themed math game, and engage in a hands-on visual art project to demonstrate understanding. Students will strengthen observation and problem-solving skills during a scavenger hunt in the Garis Gallery of the American West and reinforce learning through immersive experiences in the Experience Theater, Campfire Theater, and guided exploration of the interactive learning area. **Duration:** 4 hours

Year-round: Diversity on the Trail

Students will examine the diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds of cowboys who traveled the Chisholm Trail, including Black cowboys, Vaqueros, and Native American cowboys, to understand their contributions to the cattle industry and the development of the American West. Through an interpreter-led, inquiry-based lesson, students will analyze multiple perspectives and cultural influences, engage in a hands-on visual art project, and apply observation and critical-thinking skills during a scavenger hunt in the Garis Gallery of the American West. Learning is reinforced through immersive experiences in the Experience Theater, Campfire Theater, and guided exploration of the interactive learning area. **Duration:** 4 hours

6th– 12th grades Animals on the Trail (science based)

Students will investigate animals that roamed the Chisholm Trail, examining their habitats, physical characteristics, and roles within the trail's ecosystem. Through an inquiry-based science lesson, students will observe, compare, and classify animal species while exploring concepts such as adaptation and environmental interaction. To support vertical alignment across grade levels, animal studies rotate annually, ensuring age-appropriate instruction and eliminating repetitive content. Students will demonstrate understanding through a hands-on visual art project and reinforce learning through immersive experiences in the Experience Theater, Campfire Theater, and guided exploration of the interactive learning area. **Duration:** 2.5 – 3 hours



More 3rd – 5th Grade Options:

Birds of the Chisholm Trail

Students will examine the bird species commonly found along the Chisholm Trail and analyze their roles within the regional ecosystem. Weather permitting, students will participate in structured observation at the on-site bird blind to study birds in their natural habitat.

Session includes: instructional lesson, hands-on art project, Experience Theater, Campfire Theater, and guided exploration of the interactive area.

Duration: 2.5–3 hours

Diversity on the Trail

Students will investigate the diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds of cowboys who traveled the Chisholm Trail, with focused study on Black cowboys, Vaqueros, and Native American cowboys. This program emphasizes historical interpretation and primary perspectives to foster a deeper understanding of the people who shaped the American West.

Session includes: historical interpreter presentation, instructional lesson, hands-on art project, scavenger hunt in the Garis Gallery of the American West, Experience Theater, Campfire Theater, and guided exploration of the interactive area.

Duration: 4 hours

Creative Writing and Visual Literacy

Students will engage in creative writing exercises using artwork from the Garis Gallery of the American West as visual prompts. Instruction emphasizes the development of narrative structure, descriptive language, and the expression of ideas, emotions, and historical context through written work.

Session includes: guided creative writing activities, Experience Theater, Campfire Theater, and guided exploration of the interactive area.

Duration: 3 hours

Four Phases of Western Art

Students will study the four phases of Western Art represented in the Garis Gallery of the American West, analyzing stylistic characteristics, historical context, and artistic intent. This program supports visual analysis skills and an understanding of how art reflects cultural and historical change over time.

Session includes: instructional lesson, structured scavenger hunt, hands-on art project, Experience Theater, Campfire Theater, and guided exploration of the interactive area.

Duration: 3 hours

Bring the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center to you: Virtual Learning

Explore the sessions without leaving your desk!

Virtual Lessons that connect your classroom to the museum through Curriculum-based themes.



Field Trip Information



Admission

For Title I schools, admission is provided at no cost for students, teachers, and bus drivers. Chaperones are not required. Parents or additional adult guests are welcome to attend for an admission fee of \$5 per person.

Private schools and homeschool co-ops, admission is \$3.00 per student.

Payment

Payment is due upon arrival and may be made by cash, check, or credit card.

Lunch Arrangements

Students should bring sack lunches. Indoor and outdoor lunch areas are available and are subject to Oklahoma weather conditions.

Scheduling

Field trip programs may be adjusted to accommodate individual school schedules. Please include preferred arrival and departure times when submitting your request. Field trips are offered Monday through Friday, beginning at 9:30 a.m. or any time thereafter.

Bus Stipends:

Bus stipends are available upon request. Contact us to see if your school qualifies.

Questions or Additional Information

Please contact:

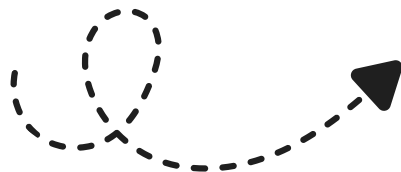
info@onthechisholmtrail.com

To Schedule a Field Trip

Visit:

onthechisholmtrail.com/field-trips/

Or scan the QR code...





EXPLORE NEW EXHIBITS

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum's exhibits extend beyond the presentation of historical information to foster critical engagement with the past. Rather than offering static facts, the museum encourages meaningful dialogue between visitors and history. Through immersive interpretation, visitors develop a deeper understanding of daily life during the Chisholm Trail era and gain insight into the social, cultural, and historical contexts that shaped the period.



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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

These educational programs are made possible through the generous support of foundations, sponsors, and members. Their contributions enable students to engage in meaningful exploration, learning, and connection with the rich history and cultural heritage of Oklahoma and the Chisholm Trail.



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