

Fort Concho's opportunities for educators and students

FORT CONCHO

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



Historical Preservation

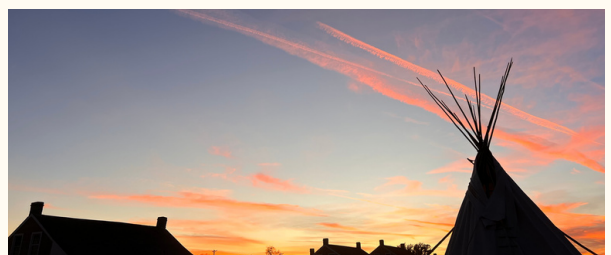
Why do we teach history?

History in general teaches us the past so we can understand the present and make better decisions in the future. History is an exciting topic and Fort Concho's Education Team brings the past to life with thrilling, hands on programs for your students. Fort Concho's Education Department has the duty of preserving San Angelo and West Texas nineteenth century history. Fort Concho represents the first permanent settlement in this region and directly led to the creation of the current city of San Angelo. In its day, the fort and the small community it fostered were the largest communities for nearly a hundred miles in any direction. Today the Fort and San Angelo serve both our local community and guests from many distant places

We would be pleased to serve you!

Educational opportunities

Frontier School and Birdie Cooper adventure
will be offered for the 2023-2024 school year:
(Fall) Monday through Thursday, August 17 -
November 16th
(Spring) Monday through Friday, January 8 -
May 31





School Tours



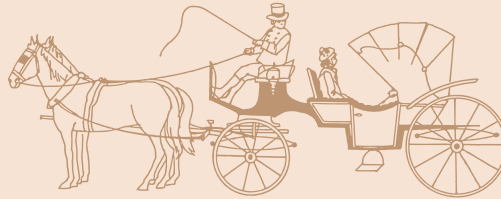
In the span of 90 minutes, the students are transported to a time when Fort Concho was the first settlement in this area.



Frontier School



On average, 28 schools attend Frontier School. Wearing the provided aprons and collars are encouraged!



Birdie Cooper Adventure



During the 2022-2023 school year, 489 students attended this brand new program.



Students' Day @ Christmas at Old Fort Concho



180 of the students in attendance are from home school or private school groups. Over the course of the weekend, 12,500 attend CAOFC annually.



School Tours

Designed for school groups of 60 or fewer participants, excluding both chaperones and teachers, our guided tours are expertly conducted by Fort Concho's trained tour guides. These educational tours are conveniently available from Monday through Friday, providing a comprehensive exploration of our historic site. As an additional option, a visit to our gift shop is welcomed with the school's permission.

For school groups consisting of 75 or more participants. Our knowledgeable docents and guides will be attired in authentic period garments, providing insightful interpretations of multiple fort buildings. Students will have the opportunity to engage in rotating sessions, with group sizes not exceeding 25 individuals, as they explore a selection of at least five staffed buildings and up to three unmanned structures, each rotation spanning 10 to 20 minutes based on schedule. As an additional option, a visit to our gift shop is welcomed with the school's permission. We kindly ask for a notice of two weeks in advance for larger groups.

Self Guided tours of any number up to 200 participants: For groups who would like just to see the buildings, we also offer self-guided tours.

San Angelo Independent School District can attend tours at no cost!

\$2.00 per student. Teachers FREE.

Chaperones FREE for every 8 to 10 students. \$3.00 per additional adult

FREE TO ATTEND

Frontier School

Fourth Grade



Joining Frontier School isn't just an opportunity to learn—it's an invitation to participate in an immersive expedition!

Frontier School is an immersive experience designed for fourth grade as they go back in time to participate in our school program, hosted in Fort Concho's Schoolhouse. The program takes approximately 3 hours and includes 30 minutes at the end for students to eat lunch.

Due to the high quantity of students desiring to attend the program at once, we have created two methods of hosting Frontier School:

25 students or fewer: stay together as a group for the entirety of the program. Students begin in OQ9 where students learn the 5 big differences between the modern day and life at Fort Concho. They then go to the schoolhouse and take a break to play nineteenth-century games. If time allows, they will also tour Fort Concho's Post Hospital.

50 students or fewer: the school group is split into two groups after an introduction to Fort Concho. The two groups will participate in two rotations. The schoolmarm has the students in the schoolhouse for the first rotation. The second schoolmarm takes students to OQ9 to learn about the big differences between the modern day and life at Fort Concho and then we play nineteenth-century games.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE
YOUR STUDENTS TO ATTEND
SAN ANGELO MUSEUM OF FINE
ARTS AND/OR HERITAGE PARK?
WE WORK CLOSELY WITH THESE
MUSEUMS TO PROVIDE YOUR
STUDENTS WITH A FULL DAY OF
ACTIVITIES



Birdie Cooper Adventure

FUN FACT: BIRDIE COOPER AND HER FAMILY JUMPED QUARANTINE LINES TO REACH FORT CONCHO.

Kindergarten through Second Grade

As we welcomed students for tours, we noticed that our younger participants were having a challenge connecting with Fort Concho's history. Understanding history is difficult for those below the third-grade level. That's why we're excited to introduce "The Birdie Cooper Adventure," a specially crafted program designed for your young learners.

Inspired by the spirit of a young Fort Concho resident of the 1870s, Forestine "Birdie" Cooper, the program is designed as a three-part rotation.

Rotation 1: students will gather around a living historian to hear the tales of two mythical mules that lived at Fort Concho.

Rotation 2: where the young students will step into the shoes of 19th-century youth by diving into a series of delightful games from the era.

Rotation 3: our budding historians will step into a recreated schoolhouse straight out of history. With eager minds and coloring pencils in hand, they'll delve into a hands-on coloring activity

"The Birdie Cooper Adventure" is more than just a program; it's an immersive journey that bridges the gap between the past and the present, all while ensuring that our youngest learners have a blast along the way. Join us in this fun and educational expedition as we paint history with vibrant strokes of imagination and knowledge.



- Play nineteenth century games
- read a childrens book about two mules who lived at Fort Concho
- Activity time in the Schoolhouse

INFANTRY • CAVALRY • BUFFALO SOLDIERS • DRILL OF THE SOLDIER
• CIVIL WAR • NATIVE AMERICANS • COWBOYS
• ARTILLERY • WESTERN FRONTIER WOMEN • LIVE MUSIC



Students' Day

DECEMBER 1, 2023

Second Grade through Twelfth grade

You are invited to join us on the Fort Concho Parade Ground for the Students' Day at the Winter Rendezvous! Living Historians from all over Texas set up camps to teach students American history. (Texas Revolution to World War II.) This day allows students to see the history they may have read or heard stories about in everyday life. Each camp has a ten to fifteen minute interpretation prepared for your students.



Students have the opportunity to learn and engage in a way not possible with a book. We spend hours studying and learning and in return, we extend our knowledge to the public. Every year the Parade Ground improves as more people join living history to teach your students. In 2022, the Education department knew teachers and their students could walk up to any camp, at any age, and gain knowledge.

Students' Day fee is three dollars per student. All chaperones and teachers get in free!



**FUN FACT: ACCORDING
TO ALICE GRIERSON IT
WAS AN EIGHT-DAY TRIP
FROM FORT CONCHO TO
DALLAS IN 1876**

**Let us help bring history to
you!**

Since COVID occurred, traveling for schools
can be limited to only certain parts of the
year or the budget prevents traveling. Let us



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Following the Students' Day 2022, the Education Department received this email from a teacher: "Our experience at the fort was amazing—I think it was the best one yet! There were plenty of presentations, so none were too crowded. All of the presenters were very kind to my student & even didn't seem to mind all their random questions!"



Create Your Own Adventure!

Talks we have given:

- Cattle Drives in West Texas**
- Civil War and West Texas' role**
- The First Thanksgiving**
- History of Christmas at Fort Concho**
- The Native American Tribes of West Texas**
- Fort Concho's Soldiers and Things They Carried**
- Hoot and Holler (1st through third grade)**

There is a program for
everyone at Fort Concho!

To register for any of the programs mentioned
in this guide, email sarah.ross@cosatx.us or
call/text 325-650-3161 which program you
would like your students to participate in,
number of students, and potential dates for
the program.

2023

August 17 - Frontier School and Birdie Cooper
Adventure begins

November 16 - Programming goes on winter hiatus

December 1 - Students' Day

2024

January 8- Frontier School and Birdie Cooper
Adventure

March 16 and 17- Garrison Days

May 31 - Frontier School and Birdie Cooper
Adventure programs go on summer break

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Have limited time due to traveling a far
distance? Teaching your students a specific
interest that involves Fort Concho? Any of our
programs can be modified to meet your
needs!

Preserving our Western Heritage

Find us on facebook @ Fort Concho National Historic Landmark
sarah.ross@cosatx.us

WWW.FORTCONCHO.COM

