

Preparing for Your Visit

Schedule of Activities:

Please arrive on time to avoid shortening your program at either site.

Arrive at Rose Hill Mansion (9:30am or 10:45am)

- Buses may park and let students off in the bus loop on the west side of the house.
- Enter the house at the door on the west side of the house.
- If your group is early, please wait on the bus or take your students around to see the yard and the front of the house. If you are scheduled at 10:45, please be sure the students from the 9:30 group have left the house before bringing your group to the door.
- As the house is very drafty have the students wear their coats inside so that they will be warm enough.
- Please gather your students together before entering the house, so that the group can enter together.
- Have the first student in line knock on the door and wait for someone to open it, greet them, and usher them in.
- The first portion of the program takes place in the kitchen and involves the students in making a cake with Mrs. Strong. The second part of the program is a tour of the first floor of the house with Mrs. Strong.
- At the conclusion of the program you will be given a teacake to take with you on your visit to the Becker House.
- Board the bus at 10:30am or 11:45am and travel to Seneca Falls
- Classes may eat lunch and use the restrooms at the Seneca Falls Public Library (55 Cayuga Street) during the time between classes. There are no public restrooms at either Rose Hill or Becker House.

Arrive at Becker House (11:15am or 12:30pm)

- Please do not enter the house until the previous group has exited.
- Students should line up at the front door of the house (not the rear public entrance), knock on the door, and wait for the maid to answer. After the students are admitted to the hallway and remove their coats, each student should present his or her calling card to the maid [see reverse] and she will announce them to Mrs. Becker.
- At Becker House students will have tea and cake with Mrs. Becker and, as time permits, see some of the first floor with the maid.
- Board the bus at 12:15pm or 1:30pm

For additional pre- and post-visit materials and activities, please visit www.genevahistoricalociety.com. Click on the tab Educator's Page and scroll down to the section on Taking Tea.

Suggestions for an enjoyable visit

- Have students prepare a calling card to give to Mrs. Becker to announce their identity. Please make sure the names are legible (if you prepare them using a cursive font on a computer they will resemble the printed cards of the time). See website for more information on calling cards.
- Encourage your students to ask questions to involve them as much as possible in the experience. Some suggested questions can be found on the Educator's Page at www.genevahistoricalsociety.com under Taking Tea.
- Remind students to avoid questions about modern technology present in the houses, such as radiators, security alarms, telephones, etc. While often such questions are genuine, presenters will feign ignorance of the technology and this situation can take time away from the program.
- Students and adults may *unobtrusively* take photographs provided they are for personal use only. Please keep in mind this can take time from the tour and that flash photography can be very distracting for the presenter.
- **Alert us** if you have any students with special needs (must have access to a bathroom, mobility impairment, uses an assistive hearing device, etc.), severe food allergies or potential problems with smoke from the fireplace at Rose Hill.
- Especially with classes of 20 or more students, please limit the number of chaperones to one per five children. The program space and seating is limited at each house and extra adults cannot be accommodated.
- Arrive on time at each location. If you are unavoidably delayed call the Geneva Historical Society office (315-789-5151) or Seneca Falls Historical Society (315-568-8412) after 9 a.m. Time lost will shorten your program.
- To help students imagine their travel back in time, encourage them to dress in costume. Clothing does not need to be exact to the time periods, but should help the students' imagination. For images of 19th-century children, see website above.
 - Girls should wear blouses and skirts or dresses. If they only have summer-type dresses, be sure that they wear sweaters or a long-sleeved t-shirt underneath. Bonnets, hats, gloves, scarves or shawls add to their costumes. Sweaters are good if it is cold. They should not wear high heels, as the outside walkways can be hazardous in snow and ice.
 - Boys should wear button-down shirts, dark-colored pants, and dress shoes if possible. Pants can be tucked into dark knee socks to look like knickers. Again, hats, vests, or suit-type jackets can also be worn.
- Please fill out the evaluation you will be sent after the program. We welcome your feedback, which helps us continually improve Taking Tea.