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HISTORY MUSEUM REOPENS WITH OUTDOOR TOURS

Free digital programs continue, including new Indigenous Peoples Week celebration

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Oct. 5, 2020 - The Charlotte Museum of History will open its grounds one Saturday per month starting Oct. 24 for self-guided, outdoor tours of Charlotte's oldest homesite. Guests can bring family or friends, enjoy a picnic and learn about Charlotte history, all for a discounted price of \$10 per vehicle. Tickets will be limited to support social distancing.

Visitors can tour the eight-acre historic site at the museum's Afternoons on the Grounds experience on Oct. 24, Nov. 21 and Dec. 5.

The museum will continue to offer free digital programs, including an online Indigenous Peoples Week celebration in partnership with the Catawba Nation starting Nov. 9.

"The museum's reopening strategy builds on what we've learned since the start of the pandemic, including how our digital programming makes history more accessible, approachable and equitable. While our in-person tours can reach hundreds of people in a month, our online programs often reach thousands. So we will continue our new focus on digital programs going forward," said Adria Focht, president and CEO of The Charlotte Museum of History. "We also believe there's nothing quite like experiencing historic places in person. Our new Afternoons on the Grounds tours are designed to give people unique interactions with Charlotte history in a way that is safer because the tours are outdoors. We will continue to keep the safety and comfort of our guests, volunteers and staff as a top priority as we move forward with further reopening plans."

The museum will announce plans in the future for reopening its modern museum building, where it hosts in-person exhibits and events.



HOW TO GO – “AFTERNOONS ON THE GROUNDS”

Saturdays Oct. 24, Nov. 21 and Dec. 5 only

Noon-5 p.m.

The self-guided outdoor experience is \$10 per car. The museum grounds will be open for entry from noon-4 p.m. on Oct. 24, Nov. 21 and Dec. 5, and the grounds will close at 5 p.m. To support physical distancing, tickets are limited and should be purchased in advance at charlottemuseum.org/events.

Tickets include a digital guidebook that tells the stories of the people who lived and worked at the 1774 Alexander Rock House and includes videos and resources to dig deeper into Charlotte’s past. The museum will ring the American Freedom Bell at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The bell is the largest ground-level bell of its kind in the nation and rang for the first time on New Year’s Eve 1999.

Visitors over the age of five are required to wear a face covering when they may be within six feet of any person not in their group, including museum staff.

HOW TO GO – DIGITAL PROGRAMS

The museum has been offering digital activities for adults and families since mid-March, when government officials ordered venues such as museums to close. Past programs are available at charlottemuseum.org/digital, and people can register for future virtual programs at charlottemuseum.org/events.

About The Charlotte Museum of History

The Charlotte Museum of History exists to save and share the Charlotte region’s history, helping create a better understanding of the past and inspiring dialogue about the future. The museum is the steward of the 1774 Hezekiah Alexander Rock House and homesite, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. Visit charlottemuseum.org and follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). The museum is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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