



Group Scheduling Information

September 2020

9621 Reed Mine Road
Midland, NC 28107
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[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

Scheduling Your Group

To schedule your group, please call (704) 721-4653 or email reed@ncdcr.gov. Please have backup dates in mind in case your first choice is unavailable. If you have more than 100 students in your group, you may need to schedule two days. Groups should plan on spending 2.5 hours at the site to complete all the activities. You will be asked for the following information:

- ❖ Date of Arrival
- ❖ Name of Group
- ❖ Time of Arrival (The time you begin your activities with us)
- ❖ Time of Departure
- ❖ Age level/Grade
- ❖ Number of Students (This includes tagalong siblings)
- ❖ Number of Adults (This includes bus drivers, chaperones, teachers, etc.)
- ❖ Will the group pan for gold? (Youth must be 8 and older to pan for gold)
- ❖ Will the group eat lunch on site?
- ❖ Will the group visit the gift shop? (10 at a time in the gift shop)
- ❖ Is the group comfortable with being photographed by site staff?
- ❖ Contact information

Activities

Guided Mine Tour – Approximately 450 feet of underground tunnels have been restored for walking tours. Scheduled groups can have site staff lead their group through the mine, highlighting its history and significance. This portion of the visit typically takes ~30 minutes, depending on the size of the group. Tour tickets are \$2.14 for visitors 13 and older, \$1.07 for visitors aged 5-12, and visitors under 5 will be free.

Stamp Mill Demonstration – A working circa-1896, restored stamp mill—a machine used to crush gold ore—is available for interpretation by a staff member April through October. This portion of the visit typically takes ~20 minutes.

Gold Panning – Our panning area is open from April 1st to October 31st, weather permitting. Site staff will teach visitors how to pan for gold in wooden troughs. Gold is not guaranteed, so not every pan will have a flake. If a visitor finds gold in their pan, staff will bottle it for them to take home. Panning tickets are \$3.21 per ticket (1 ticket = 1 pan) and children must be 8 and older to pan for gold. A group rate of \$2.14 per ticket is available for those bringing 10+ people. For groups with children ages 7 and under or adult groups unable to pan, a panning demonstration may be scheduled for \$5.00 per 30 people. Gold panning typically takes ~30 minutes, depending on the size of the group. A panning demonstration typically takes ~20 minutes.

Exhibits – Groups are welcome to explore the exhibits within our Visitor’s Center. There are panels on historic mining technology, the people who lived and worked on site, and artifacts such as rare gold coins and even a 1 troy ounce gold bar. This portion of the visit typically takes ~20 minutes. This portion of the visit is self-guided.

Orientation Film – There is a 9-minute film called “Carolina Gold” which offers information about the Reed family, the NC gold rush, and highlights of the first gold discovery on site.

Facilities

Picnic Area – There are several picnic tables available by the parking lot. These are available on a first-come, first-serve basis and can accommodate over 120 at a time. We also welcome groups to bring blankets and picnic along the open space near the parking lot. We encourage groups to have lunch before or after all scheduled activities.

Gift Shop – The Visitor Center has a small gift shop with items ranging from \$0.50 – \$21.00. Groups are welcome to visit the gift shop in groups of 10 youth plus 1 chaperone at a time. Tax is included in all prices listed within the shop.

Restrooms – As you walk up the walkway towards the Visitor Center doors, underneath the porch on your left, you will find the Men and Women restrooms on either side of the Pepsi drink machines. Each are equipped with baby changing stations.

Walking Trails – There are multiple walking trails which offer beautiful views of native NC plants and animals. These trails total ~3 miles and are walking trails, not hiking trails, which makes them accessible to most. This portion of the visit is self-guided.

Panning Policy

Our panning area is open from April 1st to October 31st, weather permitting. Temperatures below 55° or a heat index of 100° will result in panning closures as will inclement weather such as torrential rain. Site staff will teach visitors how to pan for gold in wooden troughs. If a visitor finds gold in their pan, staff will bottle it for them to take home. For those not interested in panning, or for those too young (ages 7 and under), a panning demonstration is available at no charge. Panning tickets are \$3.21 per ticket (1 ticket = 1 pan) and children must be 8 and older to pan for gold. A group rate of \$2.14 per ticket is available for those bringing 10+ people. Group reservations must be made at least 2 weeks in advance to receive the group rate.

Site Rules

1. The time at which you are scheduled is the beginning of your experience here and when staff will expect to begin rotating your group through the site. We suggest arriving 15 minutes early to utilize restrooms.
2. Groups arriving more than 30 minutes late may forfeit some scheduled activities during their visit.
3. Early groups are welcome to explore our walking trails and utilize restroom facilities but are unable to start group rotations until their scheduled start time.
4. Adults attending school field trips do not pan for gold. Our site has limited space and staff resources so we prioritize our youth/student visitors. Adult support of students who may struggle with panning greatly contributes to their experience.
5. Youth are welcome to visit our gift shop in groups of no more than 10 with adult supervision. If your group intends to shop, please allot time accordingly.
6. Groups of 25+ total visitors may need to be split into smaller groups while exploring the site.