

Off-site activities

Can't get your group here to Fort Fisher? We can bring materials to you in the local area.

Classroom Presentations:

We have presentations that can be brought into the classroom covering the Wilmington Campaign, the Attacks on Fort Fisher, Blockade Runners and Fort Fisher during World War II and the Women's Air-force Service Pilots.



Garrison Life and the School of the Soldier: Congratulations! You've just enlisted in the army! Now find out life on garrison duty for the soldiers on both sides. As a part of the garrison you'll be expected to learn the manual of arms, how to march and your uniform. *30 to 60 minutes depending on class time, 3rd grade and up, maximum of 30 participants.*

"Townball": Learn about the game that was growing in popularity prior to the Civil War. Use the New York 1854, the Massachusetts 1857, or the NABBP 1857 rules and experience the origins of the game that became America's pastime - Baseball. *30 minutes, 4th grade and up, maximum of 25 participants to play a game.*

"Secret Codes and Ciphers": Learn how soldiers and sailors through the ages sent messages disguised from the enemy. The program will focus on three historical periods stretching from Ancient Greece through the Civil War and ending at World War II. Samples of actual encrypted messages found in *The Military Telegraph during the Civil War, Volume I* (1882) and *A Manual of Signals* (1866) will be presented to illustrate how Civil War Soldiers encrypted their information. *45-60 minutes depending on class time minutes, 4th grade and up, maximum of 30 participants.*

"The World War II Home Front": What was life like in the lower Cape Fear during World War II? Learn about the role kids played in achieving victory through scrap drives and victory gardens. Find out about how propaganda through posters and cartoons were used to help keep everyone working together. *45-60 minutes depending on class time minutes, 4th grade and up, maximum of 30 participants.*



Additional Teaching Resources

We hope to have a new "Teacher's Education Packet" containing information on Fort Fisher, activities geared towards Elementary or Middle School students, and a suggested bibliography ready for mailing soon.

Further information can be found at <http://civilwarexperience.ncdcr.gov/fisher/fisher.htm> or on the Fort Fisher State Historic Site webpage (<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/fisher.htm>). Included on the website is detailed information on the first and second battles at Fort Fisher, maps of the fort and battles, the O'Sullivan images, and discussions on blockade running, Wilmington, Fort Fisher and WWII, and African American troops at Fort Fisher.

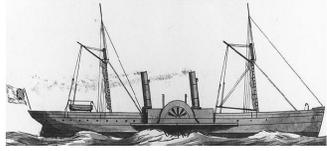


2016-17 SCHOOL GROUP VISITATION GUIDE

Fort Fisher State Historic Site
1610 For Fisher Blvd. South, Kure Beach, NC 28449
Phone: (910) 458-5538
Fax: (910) 458-0477

Email: john.moseley@ncdcr.gov
Website: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/fisher.htm>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fortfishershs>

Site History



In the Civil War, the agricultural South depended on Europe for manufactured goods and war materials. To stop the importation of these items, President Abraham Lincoln declared a naval blockade of Confederate ports. Wilmington's proximity to Bermuda and the Bahamas added to the rail connections to Virginia made it the lifeline of the Confederacy.

Nicknamed "the Gibraltar of America," Fort Fisher's massive earthen walls stretched almost a mile and a half and averaged 30 feet high. The fort also had 30 underground bombproofs and magazines. Under the protection of Fort Fisher's 44 big guns, 4 field pieces, and 3 mortars, tens of millions of dollars' worth of goods and war materiel came into the Confederacy.

After two attacks, Fort Fisher was finally captured in January 1865. The Confederacy's main supply line was severed. Three months later, out of supplies and hope, the Confederacy surrendered and the Civil War ended. The fighting at Fort Fisher would be the largest operation undertaken by the US Army and Navy of the Civil War and wouldn't be surpassed until June 6, 1944. It also included the largest naval bombardment in the world up to World War I!



Hours of Operation

Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed Sunday and Monday and most major state holidays.

Facilities

Civil War Museum/Exhibit hall
Audiovisual program
Fiber-optic map depicting the 2nd Battle
Gift shop

Restrooms
On-site bus parking
Tour trail markers
Vending machines

Handicapped-accessible museum

Handicapped-accessible ¼ mile tour trail around the Fort remains

Directions to Fort Fisher State Historic Site

From Interstate 40: Take College Road (NC 132) south through Wilmington to US 421 (Carolina Beach Road). Stay on US 421 South for about twenty miles through Carolina Beach and Kure Beach. Fort Fisher is on the right, just south of Kure Beach.

Visiting the Site

A complete visit to the site takes at least 1½ hours. Guided tours take approximately 45 minutes, but can vary by age group and group number, excluding any special demonstrations. Thematic tours and activities are done on a limited basis and are subject to staff availability and the weather. There is no charge for activities thanks to the generous contributions to educational programming by the *Friends of Fort Fisher, Inc.* Donations will be gladly accepted for programs and activities.

On-site Activities

The Museum: Walk through our exhibit hall containing hundreds of artifacts and the stories of the men who were stationed here during the Civil War and World War II. The Museum's orientation film will provide a basic overview of the history of Fort Fisher during the Civil War. The fiber-optic map (10 Minutes) describes the action on January 15, 1865. A minimum of 30 minutes for the inside is recommended. All activities are suitable for all ages. The film is 10 minutes long and a maximum of 50 people. The exhibit hall has no limit on participation.



Self-Guided Tour: You can walk the ¼ mile tour trail on your own while reading about the history of the site on wayside panel exhibits. The handicapped accessible trail winds around the remaining earthworks. 30 minutes, suitable for all ages, no limit on participation.

Basic tour: The general tour explaining the first and second battles at Fort Fisher, as well as a discussion of the importance of blockade running and the Wilmington port. 30 to 45 minutes, suitable for all ages, limit participation to 50 individuals or less.

Garrison Life and the School of the Soldier: Congratulations! You've just enlisted in the army! Now find out life on garrison duty for the soldiers on both sides. As a part of the garrison you'll be expected to learn the manual of arms, how to march and your uniform. 30 minutes, 3rd grade and up, maximum of 30 participants.

"Ready, Aim, Fire!": Learn about Civil War small arms, including those brought in through the blockade, with a costumed interpreter. The demonstration will conclude with a firing of a reproduction 1853 Enfield Rifle. 15 minutes, 1st grade and up, maximum of 75 people (including chaperones).

"Cannoneers, Attention!": Using the site's reproduction 12-pound bronze Napoleon field piece, visitors will learn about Civil War artillery and have a chance to practice period field artillery drill under the command of a costumed interpreter. This is a non-firing program subject to weather conditions and to staffing availability. 30 minutes, 4th grade and up, maximum of 30 participants.



"Getting the Message Through": Learn about how soldiers and sailors transmitted and received messages. This is a team exercise and there need to be two teams of two people each to use the "Wig-Wag" flag code. 30 minutes, 4th grade and up, maximum of 30 participants.

"Townball": Learn about the game that was growing in popularity prior to the Civil War. Use the New York 1854, the Massachusetts 1857, or the NABBP 1857 rules and experience the origins of the game that became America's pastime - Baseball. 30 minutes, 4th grade and up, maximum of 25 participants to play a game.

Fort Fisher State Historic Site Group Visitation Guidelines

Groups should remain on the bus or wait outside the visitor center while the group leader checks in with site staff.

Please let us know if your group is running late. We ask that you please call the Historic Site at 910-458-5538 press 0 for the Front Desk and let someone know just how late you may be.

- If your group does not show up after 30 minutes, your tour will be considered canceled.
- Groups with reservations take priority over drop-in groups.
- Reservations are made on a “first come-first served” basis (i.e. it is best to make your reservation early).
- Guided tours can accommodate as many as 50 individuals, but ideally would consist of no more than 40 people.
- Our theater seats no more than 55 people.
- Our gift shop only allows 7 people with a chaperone in at a time.
- At least 1 adult accompany every 10 children and chaperones/adult leaders must remain with the group they are supervising, including stationing chaperones in restrooms and following the group on the guided tour.
- We do not allow beach access at Fort Fisher State Historic Site. For beach access please use the Fort Fisher State Recreation Area (910-458-5798), .25 miles south.
- Picnicking is allowed, however we do not have facilities (tables, covered areas, etc.).
- Do NOT climb on the rocks.
- NO swimming.
- Beware of fire ants and wild animals on the property.
- Please try to schedule enough time for your visit. Especially with large groups, please allow time for loading/unloading buses, visits to restrooms, and switching between activities.