



6 Benefits of Field Trips

Field trips can sometimes seem overwhelming or just too difficult to squeeze into your already busy schedule. Let us encourage you with a list of what a field trip can do for your homeschool:

- Give a hands-on opportunity to test out information and new skills.
- Generate excitement for learning.
- Offer a break from the normal daily routine..
- Allow students a unique experience that would be difficult to replicate at home.
- Connect you with other homeschooling families, new friends, and community members.
- Add depth and insight into specific areas of study.

3 Field Trip Resources in Iowa

Field trips are not just limited to large class tour groups. Make the most out of your educational experience. There are many great information sources for planning an Iowa field trip or family educational experiences. Here are three.

[Travel Iowa](#) is our state's travel organization. Order a free guide and maps, search their website by region, and keep up to date with their calendar of events.

[Iowa Culture](#) is a mobile app that is a fun and interactive way to discover arts, history, and cultural destinations in Iowa. Explore places by category and location, browse featured tours, and save favorites to create your own Iowa Culture adventure.

[Field Trip Iowa](#) is a blog, started by Iowa home educating mom Jennifer Ciha, with inspiring photographs and detailed posts about group tours and family travel in the Midwest. Sign up to receive a free one-year field trip planning guide and find over 120 field trip ideas in Iowa.

"Serving home educating families in Iowa since 1992"

Providing Christ-centered events, communication, and resources to better equip, inform and encourage Iowa home educators to the glory of God!

8 Fantastic Field Trips in Iowa

These eight learning opportunities are provided as examples from around the state to inspire you as you begin your field trip adventures:

1. [Effigy Mounds \(Harpers Ferry\)](#) Prehistoric American Indian burial and ceremonial mounds, dating from 500 B.C. to 1300 A.D., on 2,500 acres of forested land along the Mississippi River.
2. [Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum National Historic Site \(West Branch\)](#) Displays in the Presidential Museum tell of the life and career of Herbert Hoover. Birthplace cottage on site. Changing exhibits relating to American history. This is one of thirteen presidential museums operated by the National Archives and Records Administration.
3. [National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium \(Dubuque\)](#) Adventure awaits on this 10-acre campus featuring the animals, history, culture, and ecosystem of the Mighty Mississippi.
4. [Living History Farms \(Urbandale\)](#) This Iowa treasure tells the amazing story of how Iowans transformed the fertile prairies of the Midwest into the most productive farmland in the world. While at the 500-acre open-air museum, visitors can travel at their own pace through displays set in historical time periods spanning 300 years. On-site interpreters provide a unique learning environment of seasonal activities and demonstrations.
5. [Iowa County Conservation](#) offices across the state offer educational experiences and programs with their naturalists. Do a simple Internet search: "[Your County] Conservation" to learn more.
6. [Loess Hills \(western Iowa\)](#) run for more than 200 miles from Sioux City down into Missouri. Spreading throughout this geologically unique landscape are museums, nature centers, and the Loess Hills State Forest.
7. [Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science \(Davenport\)](#) Here, visitors can connect with history and ideas by doing, making, and experiencing. Classes and special events are a great complement to the hands-on exhibit galleries.
8. [The Iowa Children's Museum \(Coralville\)](#) Explore in a 28,000 square foot active learning playground for young minds. Exhibits are rich with unique hands-on educational components that promote active exploration, problem solving, and discovery that lead to learning.

3 Ways to Save

- Memberships make great gifts! Consider asking Grandpa and Grandma for a family membership to the zoo and museums.
- Take advantage of reciprocal programs. Ask your local museums what type of reciprocal benefits they offer with a membership purchase. Here are a few examples:
 - The [Science Center of Iowa](#) is part of the [ASTC Travel Passport Program](#). SCI members can receive discount or free admission to over 300 science centers and museums, including several famous Chicago museums and the Science City at Union Station in Kansas City.
 - A [Blank Park Zoo](#) membership can save your family at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium.
- Invite some friends and save with a group discount! Not sure how? Join a local homeschool group or start your own.



homeschool iowa
NETWORK OF IOWA CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS

Group Field Trip Organization Guide

Location: _____ Contact name and number: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Time and Location to meet: _____

Cost: _____ Other notes: _____

of students attending: _____ # of parents attending: _____ Grade level/age range: _____

Special needs or accommodations: _____

Supplies needed/special clothing/lunch: _____

Get Organized

1-12 months before: Call location, make arrangements. The timing for this will depend on the location. Some tours book well into the next school year, while some can be scheduled just a few weeks ahead of time.

2-3 months before: Invite friends or create an event page on social media.

2 weeks before: Send a reminder email or a social media message to other potential participants. Include a link to teacher's guide or other supportive resources.

1-2 days before: Time for a final reminder. Make sure to include location address, etc.

2-3 days after: Send a thank you note! Share pictures with other participants.

