

Plan a Sandburg Home Group Visit

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Carl Sandburg Home
National Historic Site



- **Group reservations are recommended** for groups with a minimum of 10 persons and a maximum of **36** persons per visit. House Tour maximum is 12 people. Larger groups split into smaller groups of 12 persons each, if including a house tour in your visit. Tours are scheduled at the bottom of the hour first tour is at 9:30 and last tour is at 4:30
- Reservations for a group visit are only available on weekdays (Monday – Friday) pending staff availability. Due to heavy weekend visitation, advance reservations for groups are not available on Saturday and Sunday. If you are planning to come on a weekend, please know that you may not be able to tour the home. All other activities are free and open to the public on the weekend.
- Please submit the request form at least three weeks before your visit. Spring and Fall season reservations can fill 6-8 weeks in advance, so plan early.
- There is a \$10.00 charge for house tours for adults. \$6.00 for adults over age 62 and America the Beautiful Interagency pass holders and free for youth 15 and younger. Reservations should be paid for 2 weeks in advance.



Visiting Without a Group Reservation

- If your group is coming on a weekend or when group reservation requests cannot be accommodated, the availability of house tours for your group is based on the number of public house tour tickets available for purchase at the time of your arrival to the park. Up to 10 tickets per tour can be purchased in advance online at recreation.gov. Day of visit, walk-up ticket sales may not be available.
- Please be sure to see the ranger in the park store as soon as you arrive to help plan your visit.
- If you are not planning to tour the Sandburg Home during your group visit, please still contact the park about any accessibility needs your group might have or how to best schedule your visit for a great experience!

Need to Know about Group Reservations

When to Arrive:

Groups should plan to arrive at least 30 minutes before their first program is scheduled. Example: If you are scheduled to begin a tour at 10:00am, you should arrive no later than 9:30am at the main visitor parking lot located at 1800 Little River Rd.

Parking:

Groups arriving by multiple cars:

- The main visitor parking lot is located at 1800 Little River Rd. There is parking for 32 vehicles in this lot. Your group may or may not all be able to park together here. See the sign in the parking lot for additional parking options. This may involve a longer walk for your group. Visit www.nps.gov/carl/planyourvisit/parking.htm for more information.
- Once you park in this lot all passengers will need to walk or use a mobility device at least 100 yards to the entrance of the park where a shuttle can meet them if arranged for prior to your visit. The park shuttle can only operate within the boundaries of the park and is not able to meet your group in the parking lot.

Groups arriving by large van, activity bus or coach bus:

- There are three oversize vehicle parking spaces in the main visitor parking lot located at 1800 Little River Rd. These spaces should be available for your visit. Once you unload all passengers in this lot all passengers will need to walk or use a mobility device at least 100 yards to the entrance of the park where a shuttle can meet them if arranged for prior to your visit. The park shuttle can only operate within the boundaries of the park and is not able to meet your group in the parking lot.
- If your group is unable to meet the shuttle inside the park, a ranger could provide a step-on service for your group. See below for details.

Accessibility

Please assess your group's ability to experience the site. Accommodations are in place where possible:

- 2 Accessible parking spaces are available in the main visitor parking lot at 1800 Little River Rd. Once you park in this lot all passengers will need to walk or use a mobility device at least 100 yards to the entrance of the park where a shuttle can meet them if arranged for prior to your visit. The park shuttle can only operate within the boundaries of the park and is not able to meet your group in the parking lot.
- A 20-passenger shuttle may be requested to drive visitors up the hill to the Sandburg Home. This hill is a 0.3 mile trail with a 100' uphill elevation change. To access the shuttle visitors must be able to walk or travel with a mobility device from the parking lot 100 yards to the shuttle stop.
- A lift at the Sandburg Home can allow visitors who are unable to ascend stairs to access the 2nd floor of the home. Please request this prior to your visit.
- Groups should anticipate up to ¼ mile of walking or travel with a mobility device even with these accessibility accommodations.
- More accessibility information can be found on our website at www.nps.gov/carl/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm.

Activities for Groups at Carl Sandburg Home NHS:

House Tour

Experience how the Sandburg family lived as a National Park Service Ranger or park volunteer guides you through the house. **Please remember tours are limited to 12 persons (no exceptions).**

Visiting the Barn

Park volunteers at the barn are happy to answer any questions your group may have about Mrs. Sandburg's Chikaming goat herd.

Audio-Visual Room

Your trip to Connemara would not be complete without seeing our video of an interview between Mr. Sandburg and Edward R. Murrow. 12 min.

Hiking

There are numerous trails at Connemara, which vary in length and difficulty. Please allow time for your group to explore this beautiful setting. Maps are available online and in the bookstore.

Park Store

America's National Parks operates a park store with a great variety of items related to the literary career of Carl Sandburg, his family and Mrs. Sandburg's dairy goats.

Ways to enjoy the park in a short amount of time:

Step-on Ranger Talk

Invite a ranger to step on the bus when you stop by the visitor parking lot. This talk allows your group to stay in their seats while still learning about Carl Sandburg and the park. Talks can be pre-arranged for a variety of topics from 15-30 minutes.

Ranger Talk at Visitor Entrance or Amphitheater

Meet a ranger by the front lake with a beautiful view of the Sandburg Home, seating for 15. Or walk a short distance further to the amphitheater, seating for 200. Benches, picnic tables and a restroom are available. 30-45 minutes.

GROUP REQUEST

Requestors Name:	Todays Date:
Group Name:	Age Range:
Address:	
Phone:	Secondary Phone:
E-mail:	

Requested date to visit: _____ **2nd Choice:** _____

of Adults (age 16-61): _____ # of Adults (age 62 and older) _____ # of youth (15 and under) _____

Planned Time of Arrival in parking lot: _____

Does your group have any special needs (would like to eat lunch on site, etc...)

Select your requested activities below:

Select at least as many activities as you have groups. Example: 36 visitors will need at least 3 activities scheduled; they will be divided into 3 groups of 12 each.

Activities

- House Tour (30 minutes)
- Barn visit (30 minutes)
- Discover Program or Hike (30 minutes)
- Video and Bookstore (30 minutes)
- Summer theater performance (30 minutes)
Mid-June to mid-August, Wed and Fri at 10:15am

Tour Bus Group Activities

- Step-on Ranger talk (15-30 minutes)
- Ranger Talk at park entrance (30 minutes)

Please tell us how you will arrive and what you need:

- Passenger Car. # of vehicles _____
- Van. How many passengers is the van rated for _____
- Bus. How many passengers is the bus rated for _____.
- Park Shuttle to drive passengers up the hill to the Sandburg Home.
- Accessible lift at Sandburg Home to access 2nd floor during house tour.

Sample Schedule with 3 groups:

Group	10:00	10:15	10:45	11:15	11:45	Guide
A (12)	Arrive in parking lot	House Tour	Barn Tour	Video/Bookstore	End of rotations	Ranger
B (12)	Arrive in parking lot	Video/Bookstore	House Tour	Barn Tour	End of rotations	Ranger
C (12)	Arrive in parking lot	Barn Tour	Video/Bookstore	House Tour	End of rotations	Ranger

Submit requests to Education Coordinator
by fax at (828)-693-4179 or email: carl_administration@nps.gov.

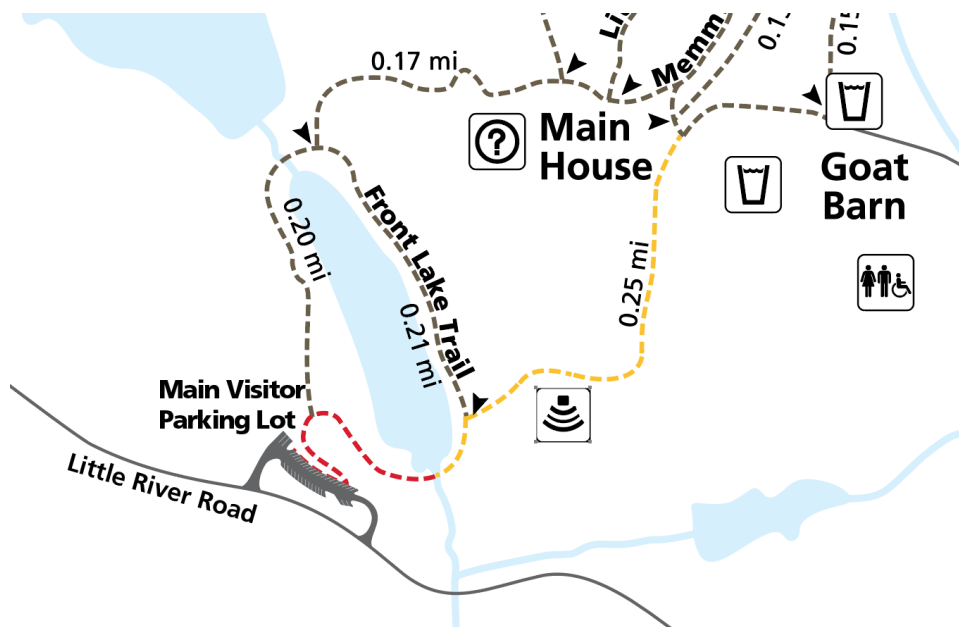
Sample Visit Itinerary

based on sample rotation schedule above:

- I. **Arrival**
 - A. 10:00 am in main parking lot
 - B. Assign each person to a rotation (providing the itinerary to at least one person in each rotation is a good idea)
 - C. bathroom stop
 - D. walk up hill or ride 20-passenger shuttle
- II. **Rotations begin**
 - A. 1st rotation starts 10:15 am
- III. **Conclusion**
 - A. Last Rotation ends 11:45 pm
 - B. Return to busses/transportation by 12:00 pm
- IV. **Lunch (optional)**
 - A. carry in, carry out encouraged; limited trash services
 - B. no concessions at park
 - C. no place to store food; busses and coolers suggested
 - D. Picnic area, amphitheater or house garage only, please be careful of litter

Preparing for Your Visit:

- Before you arrive, please divide into groups of 12. This will ensure friends and family stay together as they enjoy the activities planned for them.
- The park is located in a mountain farm outdoor setting. Your group should be prepared for the weather and to walk on uneven surfaces. Dressing in layers with appropriate footwear is recommended.
- Food services are not available in the park. Water and small snacks can be purchased in the park store. Please bring water bottles for your convenience.



Red path – sidewalk that visitors will need to walk or travel with a mobility device from their vehicle/bus to the shuttle stop.

Yellow path – Route that the shuttle will drive to the Sandburg Home

How to Apply for a Fee Waiver

To apply for a fee waiver you must be a qualified education or therapeutic organization. You may write a letter on your organization's letterhead. Please state the learning or therapeutic objectives of your visit. For example, *"Students will be able to name two issues which permeated Sandburg's poetry after touring the home of Carl Sandburg."* Your letter must be received and approved **before** visiting the park.

If approved, the house tour fee is waived for any adult and youth who visit with your group. You will be notified by e-mail, mail or phone as to the approval or denial of the fee waiver and in some cases the need for more specific objectives before the fee waiver can be approved.

You may fax your fee waiver request to: (828) 693-4179

or mail it to:

Carl Sandburg Home NHS
Attn: Fee Waiver Request
81 Carl Sandburg Lane
Flat Rock, NC 28731