

# Fort Davis

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



National Historic Site

Curriculum Materials Grades 6-8

Teacher Notes: Field Trip Logistics

## Field Trip Logistics for School Groups

### INFORMATION

Telephone 432-426-3224 ext. 20

Fax 432-426-3122

Park website—[www.nps.gov/foda](http://www.nps.gov/foda)

### PARK HOURS

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central Time. Closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

### BUS PARKING

Bus engines are prohibited from idling anywhere in the park—to maintain historic sense of quiet. Please inform all bus drivers of this regulation. School buses may park only in the main parking lot. Turn off motor to load and unload students. Please inform all bus drivers of these regulations.

### EDUCATIONAL FEE WAIVER

Request an educational fee waiver on school letterhead at least one month in advance. A written request must be on file before you arrive. State the purpose of your visit, how it relates to classroom study, the number in your group, and date & time of arrival. Please call in advance to schedule your visit. We want your students to have a very positive experience, so we try to limit the number of groups arriving on the same day.

### MUSEUM/VISITOR CENTER

Upon arrival, the leader of your group should report to the Visitor Center and pick up materials for the program you have chosen. Assemble students on benches outside.

### EDUCATOR DISCOUNT ON BOOKS

Educators receive a 20% discount on books and other material purchased in the Visitor Center Bookstore for classroom use.

## **PARK VIDEO**

The 15-minute park video shows in the auditorium every half-hour, except when the retreat parade plays--or upon request. Do not enter auditorium when video is in progress.

## **WATER**

Three drinking fountains are available at the park—inside the Visitor Center, outside the Auditorium, and in front of the Commanding Officer's Quarters. Students are advised to bring individual water bottles—full. The drinking fountains outside the Auditorium and in front of the Commanding Officer's Quarters are turned off from November to March because of freezing weather.

## **PARK MISSION**

The National Park Service is committed to protecting the fragile cultural resources of the fort and hopes that students visiting the park will become inspired by its history, motivated to come again, and ultimately concerned about its future.

## **PARK RULES**

1. Federal law protects all historic (old square nails, pieces of pottery, glass, etc.) and natural (rocks, flowers, lizards, etc.) objects. Do not pick up or take anything home.
2. Do not stand, sit, climb on, or lean against any ruin or foundation.
3. No food or drinks inside buildings.
4. Use gravel pathways around the parade ground rather than walking on the grass.
5. Students must stay with sponsor at all times. No more than 20 from one school in the Visitor Center at a time.

## **RESTROOMS**

Near the Visitor Center are the only restrooms, which are fully accessible.

## **SPONSORS**

A sponsor should be with every group at all times, both indoors and outdoors. Stagger your groups so that no more than 20 from your school enter a building at one time.

## **PICNICKING**

Picnic tables are conveniently located adjacent to the main parking lot, but there is no shade. Outside the fort are other picnic areas—at a county park ¼ mile south of town on Hwy. 17, at Davis Mountains State Park, or at pullouts with picnic tables along the highway.

## **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

Hats and sunscreen are recommended for everyone because of the park's high altitude & intense heat. Winter days in the mountains can be very cold, and unseasonably cold weather can hit October through April—so it is advisable to bring gloves and coats. For the safety of students and other park visitors, please, no running at the Fort.

## **ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES**

The park has an electric cart available for use free on a first-come/first-served basis for physically challenged and mobility-impaired visitors. It rides only two, must be signed out to a licensed adult driver, and must follow prescribed paths. For the hearing impaired, captioning is available upon request when viewing the park video in the auditorium. One education program is available in Braille format.

## **HIKING TRAILS**

The park has a one-mile and a two-mile hiking trail that goes to the top of the mountain. Elevation gain is 300 feet. Request a hiking trail map at the Visitor Center. Water bottles, hats, and closed-toe shoes are recommended. Please stay on the trail; do not cross-cut or get off trail to climb on rocks. Our trails connect with those of Davis Mountains State Park.

## **SOUVENIRS**

Located in the Visitor Center is a small bookstore/gift shop that carries a wide selection of books, postcards, and related items. There are also private gift shops in town.

## **AFTER YOUR VISIT**

Please take a few moments to complete the "Field Trip Evaluation" form and return it to the park. Your candid comments are very important to the success of our education programs. Back in the classroom, we invite you to utilize our post-visit materials that are available on our website [www.nps.gov/foda](http://www.nps.gov/foda) at the link "Education Programs."