

Lathrop Living History Festival
And
Small Farmers' Reunion
October 7, 8, 9, 2011

Dear 4th Grade Teacher,

The Lathrop Antique Club's vision is to keep our heritage alive. This comes to mind more than ever now with the tragedies our country has suffered. We live in such a free and prosperous world, it is very hard to imagine life outside the United States of America. This country was founded by people fleeing from persecution, coming to an unknown country without tools or supplies. As generations move forward with their quest for improvement, we are finding the way of life, as important as it was, is being lost.

That is why we have set aside Friday for the children in hopes that sometime in their life they will remember what they have seen and they too will want to keep traditions alive by becoming a part of a group like ours so they too can teach others. This is a computerized generation, and today's children have no idea of what it was to grow and preserve your own food, hitch up horses to do field work everyday, cut wood for cooking and heating, feed and take care of animals, and go to school in a one room schoolhouse, which most of the time served as a church and for social gatherings. Also, one of the groups that participate with us is the Indian Council of Many Nations who will bring their teepees and fried bread.

We would like to invite you to bring your 4th graders to our event on Friday, October 8, and learn by doing - stirring apple butter, dipping candles, churning butter, watch logs being sawed, see how the log barn was put together without nails, visit our homestead house, eat some delicious apple fritters, and drink some apple cider. These are just a few of the demonstrations we provide. Work horses will be located across the highway working the fields.

This is a fun time for the children, but it is also a one weekend lesson in history like we lived in the late 1800's. If the children wish, they can come dressed in pioneer clothing. We ask that you provide an adult chaperone for every five children. In the past, we have had situations in which children, and even chaperones, have broken items. We would like to stress to everyone attending that many items on our grounds are antiques that are expensive or, being a rarity, cannot be replaced. We therefore ask for everyone's cooperation in showing respect and not handling or climbing on displays. Not only will this help preserve history, but will ensure everyone's safety. We want your school to experience a part of history, but if it is reported that students and/or chaperones abuse our request, it may be necessary that your school not be invited to any of our future events.

Please consider us for your field trip in October and call Jim Plowman at 816-528-3511 with your reservation and the number of children and adults who will be attending.

Thank you,

Jim Plowman