# 2025-2026 Education Offerings





#### **Greetings!**

Greetings from the Seward House Museum in Auburn, New York! As we delve into the school year, I wanted to take a moment to remind you of all the free and cost-effective services that the Seward House offers to schools in our region. We hope to enrich the experiences of our local students while also supporting teachers and administration. Take a moment to browse through the programming options we provide in the following pages. Let's collaborate!

-Kate Grindstaff, Education and Outreach Coordinator



Education Department

## General Information



#### SEWARD HOUSE MUSEUM

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-5PM

Closed January and February

Visit: sewardhouse.org

Guided tours occur on the hour. Advance reservations are available through our website: sewardhouse.org. Visitors without pre-booked tickets will be admitted as capacity allows.

#### CONTACT

**Kate Grindstaff** 

Address: 33 South St. Auburn, NY 13021

Telephone: (315) 252-1283

Email: outreach@sewardhouse.org





#### Field Trips

We invite students of all ages to visit the Seward House, either in-person or virtually. The Seward House's admission rate of \$6/student for groups of over 10 is designed to keep this experience within reach for all students and schools. Field trips must be reserved at least two weeks in advance. Teachers and bus drivers receive complimentary admission. One chaperone is offered complimentary admission per every 10 students. Field trips may be paired with Hand's-On History workshops in the Museum. Regular field trip tours typically last one hour. To plan a field trip, visit sewardhouse.org/education/field-trips







# **Specialty Tours**

Similar to our regular field trips, the Seward House also offers in-person and virtual tours to school groups that focus on a specific topic, such as the Sewards' connection to Tubman and the Underground Railroad, Lincoln and the Civil War, or the Women's Rights Movement. A full list of options can be found under the Education tab of our website:

sewardhouse.org. Please contact Kate for scheduling all group tours and educational programming.



#### **Hands On History**

The Seward House is always excited to visit classrooms in person to present on a subject or provide any of our Hands-On History experiences. These tactile explorations of artifacts and their associated stories are perfect for a more kinesthetic learning experience, or as a supplement to an upcoming field trip. Students learn the skills of museum professionals in handling objects and interrogating them for meaning. This activity will add approximately 30 minutes to a field trip. More information on these programs can be found on our website.



## Fanny Seward Story

We also offer virtual interactive programs, such as our Fanny Seward Story site: fannysewardstory.org. The Fanny Seward Story site's purpose is to engage 4th-5th graders with a time in history that may be hard for them to connect with in other ways. The site offers an examination of Fanny's historical setting and experiences, contextual discussion questions, primary source analyses, visuals of collections objects, a helpful vocabulary list, and interactive activities that allow for further critical thinking.

#### Lesson Plans/Resource Kits

The Seward House offers lesson plans and resource kits designed for students in grades 3-12. These resource kits are broken into three lessons: previsit, the tour, and post-visit, which allows teachers to check for understanding, meet state standards, and prepare their students for the field trip. These can be explored at <a href="mailto:sewardhouse.org/education/resource-kits">sewardhouse.org/education/resource-kits</a> or by inquiry.



#### **Junior Detectives**

Mr. Seward's Junior Detective League tour is designed especially for 4-6 year olds. Led by retired teachers, this unique experience offers children the chance to explore the first floor of the museum following clues that lead to distinctive artifacts. Once they discover the artifact (and check it off their list), junior gumshoes are told brief stories about each historical object. When all the special objects have been found, a prize and an award await them from the Seward family. This 30 minute tour promises to be an exciting activity that will open the world of museums to your child, making it an inspiring adventure. Perfect for pre-school groups, families, and scouts.



# Fanny Seward Girl Scout Day

In collaboration with NYPENN Girl Scouts, the Seward House hosts an annual badge day event that celebrates the life of Fanny Seward. While learning about the past and engaging with an inspirational young girl who changed history, Brownies, Juniors Cadettes, and Seniors also earn badges, create 19th century crafts, explore the Fanny Seward Story website, earn badges, and leave with their own custom Seward House patch! This event typically occurs at the end of the summer. More Scout programming is being developed!



#### Passport to History (Auburn Only)

This city-wide program offers fourth grade students the chance to experience nine incredible historic and cultural sites in Auburn: the Seward House Museum, the Cayuga Museum of History and Art, the Schweinfurth Art Center, the Equal Rights Heritage Center, Seymour Library, the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park and Home, Auburn Memorial City Hall, and Willard Chapel. In the spring, we invite all fourth graders to visit these sites for free, first with their class on a field trip, and then on their own time with their families. Introductory materials, a virtual resource kit, a website, and in-class visits are offered to support the educational and inclusive objectives of this program.

# **Summer Camp**

PASSPORT

In the hot summer month of July, the Seward House Museum, Cayuga Museum of History and Art, Seymour Library, and the National Park Service collaboratively present their annual Hands On History Summer Camp. Students ages 8-10 can anticipate a week-long day camp full of history tours, tea parties, archaeology digs, exhibit creation, and more! This program is not directly linked to schools. Full scholarships for attendance are available upon request.





#### **National History Day**

The Seward House acts as the Finger Lakes regional coordinator for the National History Day contest. This multi-month research and presentation process, which is initially cultivated at the classroom or individual level, will end with a regional and state contest in mid-March (location TBD) and April 26 (SUNY Oneonta), respectively. If you are interested in introducing your students to this experience, please contact Kate Grindstaff. This project acts as a great supplement to history curriculum and can greatly build students' critical thinking, problem solving, research, and reading comprehension skills. Seward House staff are highly invested in building up this program in our region and will make themselves available to students for assistance and mentoring. 6-12 grade students can participate. This opportunity is open to students in Cayuga, Wayne, Yates, Seneca, and Ontario counties. For more information, please visit wwwnhd.org.







# Teen Volunteering/Shadowing

We have volunteering opportunities for teen students at the Seward House Museum! Volunteers gain valuable work experience as they help staff the Information Desk on Saturdays and during the summer. Teen volunteers also assist staff with education programs during the summer months.

Student interested in pursuing a future in a museum profession are also welcome to participate in our career shadowing opportunities. Visit

<u>sewardhouse.org/about/volunteer-intern</u> to learn more!



















