Programs and Services for Students and Teachers
ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum is America’s premier institution of Western history, art and culture. Founded in 1955, the Museum collects, preserves and exhibits an internationally renowned collection of Western art and artifacts while sponsoring dynamic educational programs to stimulate interest in the enduring legacy of our American West.

The Museum features a superb collection of classic and contemporary Western art, including works by Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell, as well as sculptor James Earle Fraser’s magnificent work The End of the Trail. The exhibition wing houses a turn-of-the-century town and interactive history galleries that focus on the American cowboy, rodeos, Native American culture, Victorian firearms and frontier military and Western performers. From fine art, pop culture and firearms to Native American objects, historical cowboy gear, shopping and dining, the Museum tells America’s story as it unfolds across the West.
From interactive gallery tours to living history performances, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum offers an array of interactive programs to enhance your classroom instruction! Cross-curricular offerings, a variety of tours, weather-related programs, musical performances and a Native American festival provide many options to engage students in lively learning opportunities.

The Museum supports Oklahoma Academic Standards in the arts and social studies for each field trip program. Browse the variety of field trip options or contact us for special needs.

The Museum provides free admission for students and chaperones (one per seven students) and a $125 transportation stipend per bus brought on school field trips! Make reservations at least three weeks in advance. Book early; dates in the fall and spring fill quickly.

Lively Learning Opportunities
WHAT IS THE AMERICAN WEST?

The West is many things to many people. Find the perfect fit for your classroom and let your students find their place in the West with one of the following programs. Each tour lasts one hour, except where noted. Docent-facilitated tours are available Monday – Friday. Teacher-directed tours are welcome anytime.

Best of the West (Grades 3 - 12)

The frontier was and is home to many indigenous tribes and was settled by rugged, versatile pioneers. During this program, students compare and contrast Native American and non-indigenous lifestyles, explore the legend of the American cowboy, analyze and interpret premier Western art and identify how artifacts and artwork help communicate the story of the West today.

People on the Move (Grades K - 6)

Explore the nomadic culture of America’s indigenous Plains people through art and artifacts. Students identify cultural aspects of nomadic peoples, analyze how the Plains Indians utilized the environment to create material culture and compare and contrast historic and contemporary traditions.

The American Cowboy (Grades K - 6)

A cowboy’s job required long hours and hard labor. Students discover the cowboy life by considering: What was a cowboy’s day like? Where did they eat, sleep and socialize? What did cowboys wear and what equipment did they use? Students find the answers while honing their observation skills and imagining themselves in the saddle throughout the Museum exhibitions.

Oklahoma as the West (Grades 3 - 4)

Rugged, versatile pioneers from around the world settled the frontier. They moved into the new frontier for many reasons, and Oklahoma was no exception. Students compare and contrast life in the state for its Native American population and settlers, analyze the role of the military, including Buffalo Soldiers, explore life in a recreated turn-of-the-century frontier town and make comparisons to their lives today.
Weather in the West (Grades K - 3)

This art tour invites students to interact with paintings depicting weather and environmental phenomenon, such as rain, snow and landscapes. Students participate by “jumping into” paintings, imagining sights, sounds and smells, and critically examining works of art. Particularly suited for younger students.

Animals in Western Art (Grades PK - 1)

Many animals live in the American West. Track different animals in art and explore their habitats using verbal cues, animal tracks and fur. After a 30-minute tour, children have the opportunity to explore animal tracks through a variety of activities for an additional 20 minutes.

Teacher-Directed Museum Visits

Use the Museum as an extension of your classroom. Create your own lessons, scavenger hunts and self-guided field experiences or utilize one of the Museum’s inquiry-based gallery guides to explore. Staff can provide additional suggestions when scheduling your visit.

Homeschool Opportunities

Are you a member of a homeschool co-op or organization? Schedule your co-op field trip to the Museum and participate in student programming. The minimum participation for homeschool groups is 10 school-aged children. If a field trip is not ideal for your group, consider participating in drop-in activities throughout the year.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

Call for a curriculum consultation and see how we can work together.

To schedule a trip, call (405) 478-2250 ext. 241 or email sstrain@nationalcowboymuseum.org for more information.
Construction is underway at the National Cowboy Museum on one of the most ambitious outdoor educational experiences ever undertaken. Liichokoshkomo’! — Chickasaw for “Let’s Play!” — is slated to open in Spring 2020.

Liichokoshkomo’! is the mission-based project of the National Cowboy Museum’s Annie Oakley Society (AOS). For nearly two years, the AOS has raised funds for its $15 million capital campaign to make their vision for Liichokoshkomo’! a reality. In November 2018, with more than 93% of funds raised, the AOS and National Cowboy Museum reached the milestone needed to allow ground breaking to commence.

As construction continues, some areas of the Museum facilities and grounds will remain closed to visitors. However, come next spring, this fun and interactive, multi-cultural outdoor educational experience that combines thematic STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education with citizenship meant to strengthen the foundation of future generations, will be open to the public.

For additional information regarding the AOS or to become a member, please visit the link above or contact Diana Fields at (405) 478-2250 ext. 233.

The educational experience we are building today will teach generations of children from throughout the world the important diverse perspectives inherent in the West.”
- Diana Fields, Director of Annie Oakley Society
2019 – 2021 EXHIBITIONS
nationalcowboymuseum.org/exhibitions

Layered Stories: America’s Canyonlands
June 15 – October 20, 2019

The centennial of Grand Canyon National Park is an opportunity to exhibit more of the Museum’s permanent collection that focuses on landforms unique in the American West and share the importance of preserving these lands for public appreciation and enjoyment.

Passport
July 19, 2019 – March 15, 2020

Art is not one-dimensional and neither are those who create it. Though often defined by their most well-known work or style — Impressionist, Cubist, Modern, Realist, Western — artists experiment and evolve throughout their careers, often working across mediums and subjects. Exhibited for the first time, these unexpected pieces by Western artists take guests around the world, through the decades and into diverse artistic careers.
**Colors of Clay**  
**August 30, 2019 - May 10, 2020**

*Colors of Clay* explores the cultural and regional diversity of indigenous ceramic vessel traditions in North America. Vibrantly colored and sculpted with absolute precision, clay pots, bowls, pitchers and jars were a dominant fixture of Native American daily life and are today viewed as one of the most notable Native American art forms.

**Caballeros y Vaqueros — Origins of Western Horse Cultures**  
**September 14, 2019 – January 5, 2020**

The iconic Western cowboy actually can trace its roots to north and west Africa, up through Spain and then over to the New World. *Caballeros y Vaqueros* will tell this story using the decorative traditions of New World husbandry as they developed in New Spain and Colonial Mexico from a fusion of Native American, European, African and Islamic traditions. This magnificent exhibition will focus on working objects as sculptural art, allowing visitors to see and learn how global traditions manifested into a unique Western visual tradition.

Funding for this exhibition and related programs is provided in part by Susan J. Roeder and from Oklahoma Humanities (OH) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed do not necessarily reflect those of OH or NEH.

**Traditional Cowboy Arts Exhibition**  
**October 5, 2019 – January 5, 2020**

The artists of the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association (TCAA) showcase the best in saddlemaking, bit and spur making, silversmithing and rawhide braiding.

**Two Grits: A Peek Behind the Eyepatch**  
**November 15, 2019 – May 10, 2020**

*Two Grits* examines similarities and differences in the two versions of *True Grit*, in the context of the novel by the same title, using artifacts, costume components and props from the films, as well as photographs from the productions.
**Find Your Western**  
December 14, 2019 – May 10, 2020

Everyone pretends to be a cowboy and the Western genre shows us how. Pulp publications, film, radio, music, television and video games have presented treatments of the West. This exhibition presents materials that allow guests to journey through the familiar and surprising twists of the genre.

**Warhol and the West**  
January 31 – May 10, 2020

*Warhol and the West* explores Andy Warhol’s love of the West represented in his art, movies, attire, relationships and collecting. In 1986, Warhol completed his *Cowboys and Indians* portfolio, the last major project before his death. It included images of 14 iconic Western subjects such as Custer, Geronimo and John Wayne. This group of images was exhibited at many museums, but never in the full context of Warhol’s continued involvement with Western people, places and things.

**Dorothea Lange: Politics of Seeing**  
February 14 – May 10, 2020

Through the lens of her camera, Dorothea Lange documented American life with riveting, intimate photographs that portrayed some of the 20th century’s most powerful moments. Drawing upon vintage prints, unedited proof sheets, personal memorabilia and historic objects, this exhibition takes a unique approach to a beloved American photographer by reuniting photographs with comments and quotes by the people she photographed.  
*Dorothea Lange: Politics of Seeing* is supported in part by the Oakland Museum Women’s Board, the Henry Luce Foundation, the Susie Tompkins Buell Fund, Ann Hatch and Paul Discoe, the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation and Peter RossiStifel, Nicolaus & Co.
February 2021

The Spiro people, and their Mississippian peers, are nearly forgotten in the pages of North American history, yet they created one of the most exceptional and highly developed societies in all of the Americas. Explore the archaeological and historical data connecting the Spiro site and its people to other communities throughout North and Central America and glimpse into the nature of their community, religious activities, farming and hunting practices and daily life.
SCHEDULING YOUR VISIT
nationalcowboymuseum.org

I loved the tour guides. They were very knowledgeable and gracious with the students. Their outfits were fun and they had great enthusiasm, which enhanced the tour.”
– Glenda S., teacher, Mustang Public Schools

BOOK NOW!
Reservations are required for all group tours and are on a first-come, first-served basis. To receive reduced or free admission you must schedule your visit in advance with the Museum. Admission fees, if applicable, are payable on the day of your visit.

Phone
Call the Museum Monday – Friday at (405) 478-2250 ext. 241 three weeks in advance of your desired date and time.

Online
Reserve online at nationalcowboymuseum.org/school-tour-reservations/.
Free or Reduced Admission for School Groups
The Museum may be able to provide free or reduced admission for Oklahoma schoolchildren in grades K – 12, including public, charter, or homeschool groups. One chaperone for every seven students receives complimentary admission. Contact (405) 478-2250 ext. 241 about free or reduced admission.

Visit nationalcowboymuseum.org for standard admission rates.

Transportation Stipend
Public and charter schools are eligible to receive a $125 transportation stipend per bus brought for tours and student events.

Where Can We Eat Lunch?
The Museum’s classrooms are available for school lunches. To guarantee a space for lunch, advanced reservations are required. All food and drink must be provided by the group.

The Museum Grill can prepare lunch (assorted sandwich trays) for your group; to make arrangements, call (405) 478-2250 ext. 241. The Museum Grill is open Monday – Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

BEFORE YOU VISIT

Before you visit, please review museum etiquette with your students. We look forward to your students visiting the Museum and want them and other guests to enjoy their visit.

To help us collect, preserve and share the West, we ask that you practice good museum etiquette:

- Be respectful of other Museum visitors
- Use your inside voice
- Refrain from running or horseplay
- Stay with your assigned group
- Photography without a flash is permitted throughout the Museum, unless otherwise noted
- Food and drink must remain in the designated lunch area
- Leave backpacks at Visitor Services or on the lunch cart
- Do not touch art and artifacts to help us preserve them
- Enjoy the gardens, but remember to leave the flowers and foliage for other visitors
- Ask questions, explore and have fun!
Join us for a K – 12 teacher professional development opportunity at the National Cowboy Museum in collaboration with the College of Education and Professional Studies, University of Central Oklahoma. This educator workshop focuses on the history of conservation in the West, including the establishment of the National Park System. Participants gain a better understanding of the political and legislative aspects of conservation and the environmental movement in the American West.

Participants engage with content experts, including Dr. Katrina Lacher from the University of Central Oklahoma, and leave with practical teaching strategies.
Participating teachers receive:

- Reimbursement for one paid substitute while attending the workshop
- $125 bus transportation subsidy paid to their district and museum admission waived for a student field trip
- 20% teacher discount on one item purchased during the workshop at The Museum Store
- Continental breakfast and lunch at the workshop

This event is free; however, a registration deposit of $20, which will be refunded to all attending, is due at the time of enrollment. Educators select a field trip date at time of enrollment. Current K-12 educators and student teachers only. Register by September 12 at nationalcowboymuseum.org/events-for-teachers/.

**Educators After Hours: Educators Appreciation Night**

**December 3, 2019**
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Educators and a guest are invited to experience all that the National Cowboy Museum offers teachers and students! Museum education staff, curators and docents showcase available educational resources, preview student tours, and lead Museum Vault tours. Guests are also invited to explore Museum galleries on their own. Refreshments and a cash bar are available. Limited to K – 12 educators and student teachers plus one guest.

This event is free; however, pre-registration is required by November 29. nationalcowboymuseum.org/events-for-teachers/.

**Dorothea Lange: More than the Dust Bowl Workshop**

**February 25, 2020**
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Join us for a professional development opportunity for teachers of grades 5 – 12 at the National Cowboy Museum in collaboration with the College of Education and Professional Studies, University of Central Oklahoma. Best known for her *Migrant Mother* photograph, Dorothea Lange’s body of work touched on provocative social and political issues throughout her career, including Japanese internment, racial segregation and Civil Rights. This workshop focuses on Lange’s social and political activism in the 20th century as seen through her lens.

Participants engage with content experts, including Dr. David Wrobel of the University of Oklahoma, and leave with practical teaching strategies.
Participating teachers receive:

- Reimbursement for one paid substitute while attending the workshop
- $125 bus transportation subsidy paid to their district and free admission for students and chaperone (one per seven students) for a field trip
- 20% teacher discount on one item purchased during the workshop at The Museum Store
- Continental breakfast and lunch at the workshop

This event is free; however, a registration deposit of $20, which will be refunded to all attending, is due at time of enrollment. Educators select a field trip date at time of enrollment. Current K – 12 educators and student teachers only.

Register by February 19 at nationalcowboymuseum.org/events-for-teachers/.

**Educators After Hours: Andy Warhol’s West**

**March 5, 2020**

5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Socialize after hours during a K – 12 professional development session at the National Cowboy Museum. Seth Hopkins, executive director of the Booth Western Art Museum and curator of *Warhol and the West*, leads educators on a tour featuring Warhol’s *Cowboys and Indians* portfolio, the last major project before his death. It includes images of 14 iconic Western subjects such as Custer, Geronimo and John Wayne.

Participants will:

- Explore *Warhol and the West* with exhibit curator Seth Hopkins
- Investigate Museum collections and exhibits
- Obtain 2.5 hours of professional development

Participating teachers receive:

- Museum admission for the event
- Refreshments
- Time to socialize with other Oklahoma educators

This event is free; however, a registration deposit of $10, which will be refunded to all attending, is due at time of enrollment. Educators select a field trip date at time of enrollment. Current K – 12 educators and student teachers only.

Register by March 2 at nationalcowboymuseum.org/events-for-teachers/.
Educators are invited to be among the first to see *Liichokoshkomo’!* Outdoor Education Experience, an interactive, multi-cultural space that introduces the American West through science, technology, engineering, arts, math, and citizenship in an immersive hands-on, minds-on environment. Enjoy light refreshments and explore this new educational space at this special event just for K – 12 educators and student teachers. (Educators may bring one guest.) Museum staff will also be available to schedule field trips for the 2020 – 2021 school year. Free, but pre-registration is required by April 23 at nationalcowboymuseum.org/events-for-teachers/.

**STUDENT EVENTS**

*nationalcowboymuseum.org*

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**Cherokee Cultural Celebration**

September 24, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

In partnership with the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, students experience a variety of activities related to 19th century Cherokee culture and lifestyle. Hands-on participation in Cherokee games such as blow-gun shooting, stickball playing, marbles and chunkey will be presented. Demonstrations in pottery making, basket weaving and finger weaving will show the unique Cherokee lifestyle of this time period. Other activity stations will introduce children to period toys, the Cherokee language and storytellers sharing Cherokee lore. Museum galleries are open for self-directed tours. Students are encouraged to visit all stations and earn a prize for their participation.

Free admission to the Celebration and Museum for students and chaperones (one per seven students). Suitable for Grades K – 8. Space provided to eat lunch. A rain plan allows the students to still enjoy many of the stations. Space is limited and preregistration is required by September 19. For registration, call (405) 478-2250 ext. 241 or visit nationalcowboymuseum.org/school-tour-reservations/.
Wild Weather Camp

October 30, 2019
10:30 a.m.

The Museum hosts David Payne’s Wild Weather Camp, a fun and interactive weather safety program developed by David Payne and the News 9 Weather Team for elementary students. Kids will learn about severe weather events and how to respond to various weather-related scenarios.

Bring a sack lunch to enjoy after the 45-minute presentation, then explore weather-related art in the Museum galleries. Admission is free for students and chaperones (one per seven students). Ask about a bus travel reimbursement. Space is limited and preregistration is required by October 28.

For registration, call (405) 478-2250 ext. 241 or visit nationalcowboymuseum.org/school-tour-reservations/.

Oklahoma Heritage Concert

November 15, 2019
10:30 a.m.

Celebrate Oklahoma’s 112th birthday and watch history come to life at the National Cowboy Museum with stage performances by Rodeo Opry, using an interactive program to teach Oklahoma history, music and culture. This educational music experience takes participants through trials and triumphs, including Native American heritage, the Dust Bowl, state symbols and famous Oklahomans. Follow up the concert with self-exploration of Museum galleries. Free admission to the program and Museum for students and chaperones (one per seven students). Concert runs one hour. Suitable for elementary age students. Space is limited and preregistration is required by November 12.

For registration, call (405) 478-2250 ext. 241 or visit nationalcowboymuseum.org/school-tour-reservations/.
Cowgirls of Color

February 5, 2020
10:30 a.m.

The inspiring Cowgirls of Color, an all-black, all-female rodeo team, lead roping, lassoing, saddling up, and activity stations for students throughout the Museum demonstrating grit, gusto and determination. Follow up the program with self-exploration of Museum galleries. Free admission to the program and Museum for students and chaperones (one per seven students). Program lasts approximately one hour. Space is limited and preregistration is required by January 31.

For registration, call (405) 478-2250 ext. 241 or visit nationalcowboymuseum.org/school-tour-reservations/.

Oklahoma Heritage Concert – The Dirty Thirties

February 19, 2020
10:30 a.m.

Watch Oklahoma history come to life at the National Cowboy Museum with stage performances by Rodeo Opry. This interactive program teaches Oklahoma history, music and culture with an emphasis on Woody Guthrie, the Dust Bowl, the 1930s and the special exhibition, Dorothea Lange: Politics of Seeing. Follow the concert with self-exploration of Museum galleries. Free admission to the program and Museum for students and chaperones (one per seven students). Concert runs one hour. Suitable for older elementary through high school students. Space provided to eat lunch. Space is limited and preregistration is required by February 14.

For registration, call (405) 478-2250 ext. 241 or visit nationalcowboymuseum.org/school-tour-reservations/.
NewsChannel 4 and the National Cowboy Museum are teaming up to present Weatherschool, a great way for kids to learn about Oklahoma's ever-changing weather in a lively format with the KFOR 4Warn Storm Team. Following Weatherschool, explore the Museum's exhibitions to discover the role of weather in the West.

Bring a sack lunch to enjoy after the 45-minute presentation, then explore weather-related art in the Museum galleries. Admission is free for students and chaperones (one per seven students). Ask about a bus travel reimbursement. Space is limited and preregistration is required by February 28.
Call (405) 478-2250 ext. 241 or visit nationalcowboymuseum.org/school-tour-reservations/.

York: Explorer is the story of the enslaved man who traveled west with the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1803. As a Corps of Discovery member, York found his spirit of freedom and was an important team member. That new spirit nearly killed him when he returned to “civilization” at the expedition's conclusion. York was never permitted to tell his story, but the expedition journals, William Clark's letters and other accounts provide a sketch of the man and his importance to the Corps of Discovery.

Program runs about one hour, including time for questions. Suitable for Grade 3 students and older. Explore Museum galleries after the program. Space is provided to eat lunch. Admission is free for students and chaperones (one per seven students). Ask about a bus travel reimbursement. Space is limited and preregistration is required by April 30.
Call (405) 478-2250 ext. 241 or visit nationalcowboymuseum.org/school-tour-reservations/.
DROP-IN ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

nationalcowboymuseum.org

DROP-IN ACTIVITIES: PERFECT FOR STUDENTS ON BREAK!

During fall, winter and spring break weeks, drop by and participate in family-friendly activities. Create a different make-and-take craft each day. No reservations required and activities are available while supplies last. Free with Museum admission. For more information, visit nationalcowboymuseum.org/kids.

Fall Break Drop-In Activities for Kids
October 17, 18 & 21, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., while supplies last

October 17  Fall Leaf Suncatchers
October 18  Foil Art
October 21  Clay Art

Winter Break Drop-In Activities for Kids
December 23, 2019 – January 3, 2020
Monday – Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Sunday: Noon – 2:00 p.m., while supplies last

December 23  Card Collage
December 24  Gallery Scavenger Hunt
December 26  Craft Grab Bag
December 27  Beaded Snowflake Designs
December 28  Fingerprint Art
December 29  Card Collage
December 30  Craft Grab Bag
December 31  Gallery Scavenger Hunt
January 2  Beaded Snowflake Designs
January 3  Fingerprint Art

Spring Break Drop-In Activities for Kids
March 16 – 20, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., while supplies last

March 16  Andy Warhol-Inspired Pop Art
March 17  Western Landscape Art
March 18  Spring Beadwork
March 19  Hands-On Clay
March 20  Andy Warhol-Inspired Pop Art
Classroom Resources: Wandering Western Chests

Wandering Western Chests provide resources focusing on the American cowboy or the Plains Indians. Teachers can tailor their program to accommodate any grade level. Items in the trunks include artifacts, tools, clothing, images of artwork from the Museum’s collection, primary source activities, assessment suggestions and story books to share with students. Utilize the chests to help provide students a glimpse of their upcoming Museum visit, supplement campus-based activities or enrich content sections by adding hands-on materials and lessons to classrooms. The Wandering Western Chests are free of charge to pick up or drop off.

Reserve yours online at nationalcowboyomuseum.org/traveling-trunks or contact the Museum’s Education Department for more information at (405) 478-2250 ext. 277.

Partner Pass

Teachers and a guest are encouraged to visit the Museum free of charge with a special one-day Partner Pass. Teachers can use it in advance of their scheduled field experience. Get to know the Museum and enjoy a 20% teacher discount on educational resources in The Museum Store. The Partner Pass is emailed with confirmed group reservations.

Summer Teacher-in-Residence Program

The Teacher-in-Residence Program is an extended professional development opportunity for up to two educators from area K – 12 schools to learn about the resources and educational materials available through the Museum and to create new resources for use by other teachers.

Educators selected for the Teacher-in-Residence Program will:

- Receive a 2020 summer stipend of $25/hour (up to 100 hours)
- Engage in current thinking about object-oriented and place-based inquiry
- Explore the Museum’s collections on view in the galleries, online, and in the Museum’s extensive Dickinson Research Center
- Develop at least one lesson plan or a unit based on primary sources to be used in their classroom or school and by other teachers
- Assist with one ongoing Museum project during the residency
- Increase their understanding of museums as places for project-based student activities

The program’s emphasis is to link the Museum with teachers from schools with underserved student populations in urban and rural school districts. Spend your time engaging with the Museum’s collections and developing lesson plans to use in your classroom and in the Museum with students. Present your projects to your own students, other teachers and to a wider education audience. Applications will be available beginning January 1, 2020. Apply online by March 1, 2020, at nationalcowboyomuseum.org/employment.

Reduced Admission for Educators

Show your valid school district I.D. and enjoy 50% off regular admission rates year-round.
The Museum’s 2019 – 2020 school programs are made possible, in part, through support from Allied Arts, Arvest Bank, BNSF Railway Foundation, Kerr Foundation, Robert Glenn Rapp Foundation and Susan J. Roeder.