

## Field Trip Ideas List

**Are Field Trips a Waste of Time?** Many of us are planning our 2009-2010 school year. As you think about what you want your children learn, think about what kind of activity that they will best remember. If you are studying The Old West, what will they remember best, reading a 2 page summary in the text book or reading biographies about Wild Bill Hickok; Annie Oakley, Sitting Bull, Buffalo Bill Cody and then visiting the Starks Museum in Orange, TX to view some of Frederic Remington's Cowboy Art? Don't forget going to the Harper's Rodeo in February at the Burton Coliseum. What will they bring away for the experience? Will it be, "History is boring! I don't like it!" or "Hey, this is interesting! Did you know...." Let's look at some other subjects and how to make them interesting:

**Louisiana Culture, History, and Geography** Reading *Strawberry Girl* by Lois Lenski, the *Clovis Crawfish* Books by Mary Alice Fontenot, and other wonderful books.

Visiting place such as:

**Vermilionville**, <http://www.vermilionville.org/> and

**Acadian Village**, <http://www.acadianvillage.org> in Lafayette

**Shadows on the Teche**, <http://www.shadowsontheteche.org> in New Iberia

**Magnolia Mound**, <http://www.friendsofmagnoli mound.org/> in Baton Rouge

**Food** is an important part of our culture and can also be studied with Nutrition or farming. Many local farmers will give tours of their rice farms, and crawfish farms. Don't forget the (Rice Mills, Sugar Cane Plants - local), Avery Island and the Tabasco Factory, [http://www.tabasco.com/tabasco\\_history/avery\\_island.cfm#targ](http://www.tabasco.com/tabasco_history/avery_island.cfm#targ), The Rip Van Winkle Gardens and The Jefferson House and Salt Domes in New Iberia, <http://www.ripvanwinklegardens.com/>. The Kent House, <http://www.kenthouse.org/> in Alexandria is a wonderful place to visit. Check out their website for their Demonstration Days. They have Herb Day, Sugar Cane Day, Spinning and Blacksmithing and many more wonderful activities. DeRidder has the Beauregard Museum (120 S. Washington Ave.) (463-8148) with Historic artifacts from area pioneer families and the Lois Loftin Doll Collection. Merryville has the Merryville Historical Society's Burks Log Cabin and Museum (825-0101). Oakdale has the Leatherwood Museum (202 E. Seventh Ave.) with historic displays from the early history of Allen Parish.

**The Arts** - The Lutch Theater, <http://www.lutch.org> in Orange, TX has plays that interest a wide range of age groups. If you are interested in production, you will want to attend to see the variety of methods used to produce plays. There are also some local theaters and many museums and art galleries here in Lake Charles and the surrounding areas.

**Animals, Birds, and Nature** There are zoos in Broussard (Lafayette), <http://www.zoofacadiana.org/> and Alexandria, <http://www.thealexandriazoo.com/>.

Don't forget Sam Houston Jones State Park. Their Nature Ranger teaches a weekly lesson which is open to the public. (They will also teach "private" lessons to a group of children.) You will find the these and other activities that are open to the Public on the Calendar of our website, <http://www.swlachevinc.org>.

We also have several local **Wildlife Refuges**:

**Creole Nature Trail National Scenic Byway** - A 105-mile driving and walking tour touching four state and national wildlife refuges and a bird sanctuary. Along the way you can take a chance at fishing, crabbing, shelling, just strolling the beaches, or observing the birds in the largest birding area in the South. You can expect to see beautiful marsh flowers in season, alligators, and marsh animals along the way.

**Sabine National Wildlife Refuge** (Hwy 27 south, Hackberry) - This 125,000-acre wildlife refuge preserves a large block of coastal marsh. A Visitors Center displays a diorama and exhibits. A one-mile paved nature trail is open to the public.

**Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge** (10 miles south of Holmwood, 1428 Hwy 27, Bell City near Lake Charles) - The refuge offers a Visitor Center with wildlife dioramas, a Cajun Robot, wetlands scenery, and many species of birds. A wildlife drive is included.

**Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge** (Lake Arthur) - Featuring more than 30,000 acres of freshwater marsh, the area offers fantastic views of wading birds and thousands of wintering ducks and geese. Fishing and hunting are permitted.

**Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge** (On LA 82 south of Lake Charles) - The 84,000 acres of coastal marshland offer a refuge for ducks and geese and a resting place for transient birds on their way to Central and South America. It is an excellent bird watching location.

**Trees** The Southern Forrest Heritage Museum, <http://www.forestheritagemuseum.org/> includes a Sawmill Town in Longleaf, which is between Oakdale and Forrest Hill. The Grant Christmas Tree farm is a fun place to visit the 1st 3 weekends after Thanksgiving.

**Plants** Shangri La Gardens, <http://www.shangrilagardens.org/> in Orange, TX.

**Civil War** There are several local Civil War Re-enactments locally.

**Renaissance** If you are studying the Renaissance there are 2 Festivals that are nearby, one in LA, <http://www.la-renfest.com> and one in TX, <http://www.texrenfest.com/>

**P.E.** - Homeschool Skate Day at Skate City, Homeschool Bowling at Petro Bowl, Hiking the Trails, walking, and bike riding at Sam Houston Jones State Park. There are also many good virtual field trips on the web.