

General Information



PURPOSE

The Iron Hill Museum, operated by the Delaware Academy of Science, Inc., is the primary educational resource for the study of human and natural history of the Iron Hill region. Its programs, collections, and library interpret the relationship between the people and the land.

HOURS

Tuesdays through Fridays - 9 AM to 2 PM

Saturdays - 12 PM to 4 PM

Interpretive programs available seven days a week by reservation

DIRECTIONS

From I-95: Take the Route 896 exit south to Old Baltimore Pike (the next intersection after exiting from I-95). Turn right onto Old Baltimore Pike and go 0.8 miles. The museum will be on your right.

Just minutes from Route 40 and the Maryland state line!
Call for more detailed directions.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Our permanent museum exhibits include comprehensive displays of local flora and fauna, rock and mineral specimens from the local region as well as from around the world (including our popular fluorescent mineral display), fossil specimens found in the region, (including a petrified tree trunk, and a set of dinosaur tracks), artifacts from local prehistoric cultures, and historical representations of the rich iron industry once found at Iron Hill.



Field Trip Offerings



Iron Hill Natural History Program

Using the museum's great collection of rocks, minerals, animal specimens, and more, learn about the natural history of Iron Hill and the surrounding area. Discuss why people came to Iron Hill in search of earth resources since early times. Receive an introduction to rock and mineral identification. Learn what species of animals you will find living around your neighborhood. Walk the Iron Mine Trail and visit one of seven iron mines on Iron Hill. Every student takes home a free rock specimen!

Native American Program

Our most popular tour! Learn how Native American people lived within the natural world around them through archaeologically focused exhibits and tour. Accompany a guide on the Iron Hill Trail as they point out natural resources the Native American people would have used. Your tour will give students a hands-on experience to a rarely seen world.

Enhanced Geology Program

An all-day earth science program, including visits to the Delaware Geological Survey, Iron Hill Museum, and rock collecting on the top of Iron Hill. A full day of adventure! \$225 per class (up to 30). Two groups can be scheduled on the same day by special arrangement. (4.5 hours, includes lunch break). **NEW FOR 2009:** Abbreviated program now available; same as above but without Delaware Geological Society visit (\$5.50 per student)

NEW!! Story and Craft Time NEW!!

This program is designed for our younger visitors (preschool and kindergarten). Teachers can pick from many different themes for the day and the students that attend will hear a story and participate in a craft project. Limit 30 students per program time (1 hour each). More than one program can be scheduled per day. Themes include insects, dinosaurs, nature adventures, birds, reptiles and lizards, mammals, and Native Americans.

Please visit our website at www.ironhill-museum.org for our complete field trip program offerings

Outreach Programs

One Room School House

Students learn what it was like to go to school in a one room school house. The program uses artifacts, primary and secondary documents, photographs, oral histories, and role playing to bring the Iron Hill African-American school to life within their own classroom.

Rocks Are Weird

A focus on earth science. We bring some amazing rocks and minerals to your classroom. Emphasis on identification techniques. Includes display of fluorescent minerals.

Lenape Life

A discussion of the Lenape of Delaware from an archaeological perspective. Artifacts, other items are brought and are worked into a discussion of lifeways of the people who produced and used them.

Delmarva Dinosaurs?

This presentation concentrates on fossils and their formation. Dinosaurs and other prehistoric life forms are included in a discussion of the fossil record in our area.

Whose Trash Is It Anyway?

Learn about non-renewable natural resources, and the impact of recycling. Program format includes presentation followed by a game show hosted by Bobbi Degradable, in which students actively reinforce what they have learned in a crazy, fun setting. *Free to DE students through Dec 2009*

NEW!! Deep, Dark Caves NEW!!

Caves are fascinating places! This program allows your students to explore caves while still sitting in their classroom. Learn about the different types of caves and how they are formed, stalagmites and stalactites, and creatures that call the cave home.

NEW!! Danger From Above NEW!!

Want to know what dangers lurk in the sky? Our staff will come to your classroom and talk to your students about raptors, especially focusing on owls. Students will learn about the different parts of the birds, see an example of an owl, where they live and how they eat. Then your class will get to dissect their own owl pellets! Your class will love learning about these unique birds.

Please visit our website at www.ironhill-museum.org for our complete outreach program offerings

Additional Information



MUSEUM PROGRAMS

The interpretive programs take place both inside the museum and on our nature trails. Visitors should dress for a trail walk (no sandals or dress shoes!). After you reserve a program date, museum staff will call to verify date and details approximately one week prior to your visit. One to three chaperones per 15 students is desired. You are invited to picnic in our available picnic areas around the museum before/after your program.

OUTREACH VISITS

\$3.50 per student, plus one \$15 travel fee to come to your site. Thirty students or less per presentation, many presentations can be scheduled for the same day. Minimum of 15 participants requested.

MUSEUM FIELD TRIPS

\$4.50 per student (unless otherwise noted). No extra charge for teachers or chaperones. A minimum \$45 dollar fee is required. *PLEASE NOTE: we offer a discounted price of \$4.00 per person when scheduling group at 12 noon or later on weekdays. Approximately 20 participants per guide. Your visit includes both a museum program and a guided walk on our nature trails.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

Our shop offers a variety of inexpensive earth treasures, and your group is encouraged to shop after your program.

To Schedule a Program

Please contact us at (302) 368-5703, or email us at info@ironhill-museum.org to discuss your program needs or to schedule a program. All programs are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, and we highly recommend that you schedule your museum program needs with us as early as possible to ensure availability.

Brief History of Iron Hill



Iron Hill has a unique place within local history.

From prehistoric times, the natural resources of the area attracted people to the "Hill". Native Americans came to the hill for its jasper to make tools. Archaeological evidence suggests the material was both quarried and made into tools on site. Both finished projectile points and late-stage rejected materials have been found.

Iron Hill gets its name from the presence of iron ore, mined here for approximately 200 years. Welsh settlers were given a tract of land from William Penn to live on the Hill and mine it for the ore. The presence of iron ore within the Colonies contributed to their independence as it resulted in less reliance on England for resources. Seven abandoned pit mines still can be seen on Iron Hill.

Iron Hill is just a half-mile from Cooch's Bridge, the location of the only battle ever fought on Delaware soil. In 1777, Generals George Washington, Nathaniel Green, and Lafayette used Iron Hill as a vantage point to watch for British troops approaching from the Elk River in Maryland. Caesar Rodney, Delaware's own Revolutionary War hero, camped on Iron Hill with his troops in 1814.

About the Museum

The museum building was originally "Iron Hill School #112C", an African-American school from the days of segregation. It was built in 1923 through the philanthropy of Pierre S. du Pont. Closed as a school in 1964, the building was officially re-opened as the Iron Hill Museum on March 9th, 1968. In 1995, it was placed onto the National Register of Historic Places. Today, it is part of an exciting oral history project, recording the stories of the students who attended the school.



EDUCATORS RESOURCE GUIDE

2009-2010

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