

Site Tour Policy

Educational programs, tours and living history events offer meaningful learning experiences for school groups and visitors of all ages to the National Ranching Heritage Center. Paved pathways around the historical park provide convenient walking paths, as well as wheelchair access to the structures. Signs are posted giving a history of the historic structures in both English and Spanish. A free smartphone app for iPhone and Android offers visitors an audio tour, videos, exhibits information, an interactive map and games.

SCHEDULING *and* FEES

Self-Guided Tours

The NRHC can accommodate groups of different sizes. Self-guided tours of the historical park and museum typically take from 60 to 90 minutes depending on the age and interest of the group. Groups of more than 25 should schedule their visit no less than two weeks in advance. There is no admission fee and no fee for self-guided tours. Donations are appreciated. Buses should drop the group off at the main entrance before parking at the back of the NRHC parking lot (near 4th Street).

Adult Group Visit Info: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/nrhc/Learn/adultgroupvisit.php>

K-12 Schools Requesting a Field Trip: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/nrhc/Learn/fieldtripsforkids.php>

Guided Tours

Guided tours for groups of 25 to 50 are available upon request and are dependent on staff and volunteer availability. To request a guided tour, groups should schedule their visit with the NRHC no less than two weeks in advance and pay a \$50 fee. Reservations are not complete until the fee is received. Buses should drop the group off at the main entrance before parking. Cancellations will be accepted no less than 24 hours in advance. If your group is more than 30 minutes late to your scheduled tour, your tour guide is not required to stay and you will not be refunded.

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/nrhc/Learn/adultgroupvisit.php>

Trolley Tours

The NRHC offers one trolley tour each Thursday at 10:30 am through the months of April – October for \$5 per person. Trolley tours are cancelled in bad weather. The trolley seats 21 passengers and tours feature an NRHC guide. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Trolley tickets are available for purchase in the NRHC gift shop. Rides are approximately 30 minutes long.

Group Trolley Tours are available during normal business hours upon request and are dependent on staff and volunteer availability. The trolley can accommodate groups of 21 or less. A reservation with fee payment of \$50 must be made at least two weeks in advance. Reservations are not complete until the fee is received. Trolley tours are cancelled in bad weather. Trolley tours are not available on weekends or evenings. Cancellations will be accepted no less than 24 hours in advance. If your group is more than 30 minutes late to your scheduled tour, your tour guide is not required to stay and you will not be refunded.

Picnics

A picnic area may be reserved for tour groups depending on availability. There is a fee of \$100 to reserve the McLaughlin Arbor, set up with picnic tables and trash cans and conveniently located in the center of the historical park. There is no fee to reserve a spot on our back patio if available. Other groups may also be using this space. The NRHC may change what picnic area a group will use based on the size of the group and the demand for space. Picnic areas are only available to groups that have scheduled a tour. Picnic areas may only be used for sack lunches. Groups are responsible for picking up trash.

SUPERVISION

There must be at least 1 adult chaperone for every 10 minors in the group. Chaperones must stay with the group while they tour the historical park, view the indoor exhibits and visit the gift shop. Minors are not allowed to tour the site without immediate adult supervision under any circumstances. Chaperones are responsible for ensuring the safety and managing the behavior of minors in their group. The group leader and/or hosting organization will be responsible for all behavior problems and damages caused by the group.

BEHAVIORAL *guidelines*

- ❖ Do not pick up or touch items on display.
- ❖ Turn off the flash if you wish to take pictures inside the main building.
- ❖ Use quiet voices while in the main museum building.
- ❖ Be sure your lunch area is completely cleaned before you leave.
- ❖ Do not climb or walk on the hills.
- ❖ Do not climb on trees, structure barriers or artifacts (e.g. wagons, trucks, fences).
- ❖ Do not disturb the wildlife that makes its home in the historical park.
- ❖ Food and drinks, including gum and candy purchased in the store, may not be consumed inside the main building.
- ❖ Children must always be accompanied by an adult.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Professional photography, photography for publication or sale, video photography and the use of tripods or professional photographic equipment is strictly prohibited in galleries. Photography is allowed in the historical park, but professional photographers must check in at guard station to sign and date an NRHC Photography Policy.