



May 9, 2009

Dear Educator:

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite your 2nd through 5th Grade classes to attend the **Old West Festival** on **Friday, September 18, 2009**. Our Festival celebrates the rich history of the American Old West. Take your class on a field trip back in time, before the light bulb or automobile, to Dodge City 1878. The Old West Festival will be modeled on the layout of the historic Dodge City with the streets and buildings named accordingly.

We are located just 15 minutes off I-275, east on State Route 32, convenient to all areas of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. In just our second season, The Old West Festival is focusing on Education, and we are planning many exciting events for the children. We'll have interactive performance workshops, free crafts for the students to make, appropriate crafts for the children to purchase (\$1 and up), Historic Gunfights, Medicine Show, Living History Village area, pony rides, train rides and covered wagon rides.

Students can identify and describe examples of how science and technology have changed the daily lives of people and compare both forms of communication and transportation from the past and present. They can also see the changes in community over time including architecture, employment, education and technology, to name a few. Older classes can see the impact of western settlements, inventions and transportation on the expansion of the United States.

Admission for the students is \$2.00 per student (no charge for teachers, chaperones or drivers). We do NOT offer bus services. Do not send your money or P.O.'s now, as it will be collected at the gate upon your arrival. Bus arrivals at The Old West Festival should be scheduled between **9:00 – 9:30 a.m.** Departure times are up to the discretion of the school but should be no later than **2:00 p.m.** Please keep in mind that there should be at least 1 chaperone for every 5 students attending. **EACH CHILD MUST WEAR A NAME BADGE INDICATING THEIR NAME AND THEIR SCHOOLS' NAME.**

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R e s e r v a t i o n s a r e c o n f i r m e d b y e m a i l .

Additional Old West Festival information can be found at OldWestFestival.com. Our Student Days Tab has an educational guide to provide ideas, or email schools@oldwestfestival.com.

Sincerely,

Carol Deimling
Student Days Coordinator
Old West Festival

**Rules/Suggestions
Old West Festival**

Education Day
September 18, 2009

1. **Student Admission is only \$2.00!**
NEW! 2nd through 5th Grade Students are Invited! There's no charge for teachers, chaperones or drivers. **Place student's admission fees in a sealed envelope with:**
 - a. SCHOOL NAME
 - b. TEACHER'S NAME & PHONE # and
 - c. the # of students attending written legibly on the outside of the envelope.The envelope should be given to the Old West Festival volunteer greeting the buses.
2. There must be at least 1 chaperone for every 5 children. Please advise your chaperones to stay with their group – AT ALL TIMES.
3. **We recommend that students pack a brown-bag lunch with a drink in an unbreakable container.** Coolers are permitted and picnic tables are available in the picnic areas. Food and drinks will also be available for purchase on the Festival grounds. Groups are responsible for keeping the picnic area clean.
4. Please observe the **arrival/departure time (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)**.
- 5.. There are items appropriate for children to purchase for \$1 and up, at the Festival. You may want to focus your group on attending demonstrations, performances, the Living History Areas and the other workshops before arriving.
7. **EACH CHILD MUST WEAR A NAME BADGE INDICATING THEIR NAME AND THEIR SCHOOLS' NAME.** We recommend that each class design and color a badge with an Old West theme to help chaperones and volunteers with identification.
8. We will send a packet of material in the beginning of September to assist you in getting ready for the Festival. **Please visit our Website www.OldWestFestival.com for additional information, as it will be updated as information becomes available.**
9. This is an outdoor Festival. Please be prepared for inclement weather conditions. **There is no rain date!**

Display your Class Project
At the Old West Festival!

In preparation for the Old West Festival's Education Day, we hope your students will be studying how the Old West helped shape the United States in your classroom. We'd like to promote your special efforts by displaying class projects at the Festival. **Your class is invited to design a project about any aspect of the Old West or Dodge City and to create a display illustrating your project.**

Some examples are:

- ❖ Read about life on the American Frontier and then have students write their own stories. Share the student's tales at the Festival.
- ❖ Study the historical importance the railroad on the American West and how did the railroad affected river cities such as Saint Louis, Cincinnati, and New Orleans? How did the railroad transform ideas of distance and affect travel, agriculture, manufacturing, and economic life? Display your research in written reports, photographs, graphs and/or maps.
- ❖ Learn about Old West Entertainment. How has entertainment changed since the 1870's, whether in Dodge City or in a sophisticated and developed city such as Cincinnati? . Develop your own "Old West Entertainment" and perform it for other classes. Display photographs of your production. Or let us know, we can let you perform it at the Education Days!

There will be a special area reserved for project displays. **Displays can be setup on Friday morning when you arrive. Each class will be responsible for picking up own their projects at the end of the day if they would like to keep them.** All participating classes receive a certificate of excellence as special recognition for their projects.

Name of School-Organization: _____

Title of Project: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Teacher/Contact: _____

School Phone (____) _____ - _____ **School Fax** (____) _____ - _____

Cell Phone (____) _____ - _____ **Email:** _____ (Please Print)

Type of Display/Approximate Size: _____

Brief Project Description: _____

Is your class interested in being featured for a media/press story about the Appalachian Festival?

Yes / No

If so, what dates/times do you anticipate your class will be working on the project and available for a photo? _____