

Local History Field Trips Celebrate 4th Year

Chatham County Historical Association's field trip volunteers and sponsors are celebrating the completion of their 4th year hosting Chatham's fourth grade student field trips. Over 800 students from 13 schools visited the Chatham Historical Museum and Historic Courthouse during the course of the 2016-2017 school year. On each tour, small groups of students rotate through four activity areas, then assemble in the courtroom for the finale with a reenactor from Chatham's past.



Students from Virginia Cross Elementary watch CCHA reenactor, Gary Simpson, portray John Brooks, an early 18th century settler in what would become Chatham County.

What teachers and chaperones have to say:

"We will remember this trip for many years."

"This gave the students the opportunity to 'learn-doing' that makes knowledge very significant to them."

"It brought Social Studies to life."

"Didn't know all of this was in the building."

"Provided a great story of the local history."

"Best field trip ever!"

CCHA appreciates support from the 2016-2017 community sponsors: Chad Virgil of Edward Jones Investments, Chatham Business Services, Chatham County Schools, Hobbs Architects, PA, Pam Herndon of State Farm Insurance, Patty Walters, Pittsboro Feed, Pittsboro Police Department, Pittsboro Toys, and Susan and Bob Little.

K-5 Instructional Program Facilitator and CCHA liaison, Daphne Terry, has provided invaluable advice and assistance to the field trip team members each year. "CCHA's fourth grade field trips have provided Chatham County School students the wonderful opportunity to experience, participate, and be inspired while learning about the rich and diverse history of Chatham County. The volunteers and docents have been dedicated in making sure that not only is the fourth grade field trip enjoyable but also, truly educational."

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services & Instructional Support, Dr. Amanda Hartness, enjoyed her visit for Sponsor Appreciation Day. “We are very grateful for the annual opportunity for our 4th grade students to visit the Historic Courthouse. I had the pleasure of attending the event with students last year and the students were very engaged and learned so much about the history of Chatham. We appreciate the collaboration with the Chatham County Historical Association to provide this excellent field trip for our students. We hope to see this event continue for many years to come.”

Current CCHA President, Grimsley Hobbs, has been a strong supporter of the student field trip concept from its inception. “I am proud of the quality and popularity of the fourth grade field trips to the courthouse and museum. It is one of the premier programs of the Chatham County Historical Association and we thank the many dedicated volunteers for making it possible.”