

## **BACKGROUND**

In budget hearings conducted during the 79<sup>th</sup> General Legislative Session (2017), Legislators learned that school visits to museums, once common, have declined significantly in recent years due mainly to a lack of funding for transportation to bring students from the classroom to one of Nevada's seven State museums. Typically, Nevada curriculum standards include teaching Nevada history primarily in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade but also in other grades.

Nevada's State museums serve as incubators for creating and celebrating identity and teaching critical skills that go far above and beyond just history education. Engagement and learning through storytelling, supplemented by authentic and unique objects, help build a future of engaged citizens and leaders. There is simply no substitute for experiencing hands-on, a Nevada State museum.

Legislators responded to this growing crisis by allocating new funding to provide for bus transportation cost offset to bring students back into the informal learning environments in our State museums. The Division launched a pilot program in the 2017-2019 school years that provided educators with the ability to request both a school tour and reimbursement for bus transportation in a single, web-based transaction. To date over 16,000 students have been served through the program. The recently completed 2019 Legislative Session extended the program for an additional two years.

## **HOW IT WORKS & ELIGIBILITY**

K-12 educators from public schools across the Silver State are encouraged to go to the Division website at <http://nvculture.org/museums/> and review a brochure that details the location, themes and content of each of the seven Nevada State museums. Please note that while Nevada State museums welcome all students, the transportation reimbursements are available only to Nevada public schools. The school bus transportation program was envisioned primarily as a means to get 4<sup>th</sup> grade students into the geographically closest Nevada State museum, but consideration will be given to providing the transportation offset funding for other than 4<sup>th</sup> grade public school students and other than the nearest State museum so long as funding is available. (Funding is apportioned based on county enrollment as a percentage of total statewide enrollments.)

The on-line registration form to request a tour date, time, and transportation cost offset is found on each of the Museum's websites. It can easily be completed and submitted on-line. Requests should be made no less than 20 days prior to the desired date for your tour.

Within 7 days of submitting your request, a museum educator or staff from the museum will contact you via phone or email to confirm date and time and other details such as special needs or accommodations for lunch. Once all details are clear and the date and time for the tour is accepted, you will be provided a tour confirmation number. No tour is confirmed by the museum until the confirmation number is assigned and provided.

Within 30 days after a class visits the museum, the request for transportation cost offset will be processed and payment will be made to the district or school via electronic payment. Transportation payment is limited to the amount requested when the reservation was made. If a charter bus was used to provide transportation, please present an invoice or other documentation to justify the cost to museum staff at the time of the tour or within five business days thereafter.

## LIMITATIONS

- Transportation cost reimbursements are available to Nevada public schools only.
- Each class is limited to receiving a bus transportation offset one time per school year.
- The Division of Museums & History is not responsible for additional transportation costs caused by circumstances outside its control.
- Funding is available on a first-come, first-serve basis until the allocated funds are exhausted and each County is apportioned funds based on their percentage of K-12 enrollment as a percentage of statewide total enrollments.
- For schools traveling long distances that may require an overnight stay, no funds from this program are available for lodging, food, or any other per diem costs.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on the museum school tour program, please contact staff at the Museum you are interested in. For information on details of the bus transportation funding program, please contact the Nevada Division of Museums and History, 412 E. Musser Street, Suite # 2, Carson City, NV 89701 or call (775) 687-7340, x 301. You may also email your inquiry to [dmhfiscal@nevadaculture.org](mailto:dmhfiscal@nevadaculture.org).

We sincerely, hope that Nevada educators will take advantage of this new program, designed to enhance your classroom education with a visit to a Nevada State Museum.