



Morgan Hill Historical Society

LIVING HISTORY FIELD TRIP PROGRAM

TEACHER INFORMATION PACKET

Welcome to the Morgan Hill Historical Museum and Villa Mira Monte! We are happy that you have decided to participate in the Living History experience. You have a significant role to play in the success of your group's educational program and will be essential in creating a positive experience for all. Please follow the guidelines set forth in this packet, to ensure that your class has a successful experience at Villa Mira Monte.

PLEASE:

1. Complete the Scheduling Information and Registration Form AND the Parent Permission for Student Participation in the Living History Field Trip Program at the end of this packet
2. Complete the pre-visit activities with the students
3. Prepare for the experience by following the program as outlined in this packet in order for us to maximize the amount of time students spend participating in the program at Villa Mira Monte
4. Review the history of Villa Mira Monte and the Rules with the students before your visit
5. Recruit required parent volunteers to assist at the museum and present them with the parent information packet. **According to MHUSD Board Policy, children who are not enrolled in the MHUSD are not allowed to participate in a field trip during school hours. Therefore, siblings or other children cannot attend with a chaperone.**
6. Review the parent information packet so you know what is expected of your parent volunteers

What You Need To Know

1. Restrooms are located in the Morgan Hill Museum and one in the Hiram Morgan Hill House.
2. Lunch may be eaten on the grass in front of the Hiram Morgan Hill House or on the veranda of the house. Please remember to bring a lunch and drink. In case of rain, students may sit under the cover on the porch. We ask that you bring large trash bags and take your trash back to your school. We do not have large trash bins available.
3. Please have everyone wear appropriate clothing. Part of the program happens outside and the program goes on in all types of weather. Jackets and warm clothes (layering) may be necessary in early spring while lightweight clothing is essential for the warm days

of autumn and later spring. Bring umbrellas if rain is predicted, since the walking areas between (and in the Centennial History Trail) stations are not covered.

4. If it rains, we carry on alternate activities indoors.
5. Backpacks, bags and other large items should be left at school or in the bus. Cameras are up to the teachers' discretion.
6. **There is no onsite drinking water available.** Most teachers have students bring individual bottles of water or you can bring water for the group.
7. If you have anyone who has severe allergies or cannot use the stairs to access the Hiram Morgan Hill House, please contact us now.
8. Bring along a class snack to be eaten during the garden station. This snack could be crackers, fruit rolls, or other light snacks.

What is Expected of You at Villa Mira Monte:

1. Have your class divided into three groups before coming to the grounds. Name these groups "Diana, Hiram, and Murphy". We call these groups by name so students need to know which group they are in. Label name tags with "D" "H" or "M", as well as the students' first names.
2. Keep your groups together and follow directions for rotations. See the schedule and time allotments for each rotation.
3. Docents are usually available to lead a station, but you should familiarize yourself with the activities to be done at each station. The Centennial Trail in the garden station is to be lead by the teacher and/or chaperone.
4. Please be sure that parents who are assisting are either: (1) assigned to stay with one group as they rotate through all of the stations, or (2) if assigned to one station, are given the opportunity to switch out with other parents (or yourself, if necessary). This way the chaperones get a chance to observe all of the stations.
5. Assist in maintaining appropriate behavior by moving throughout the groups. Troubleshoot small problems before they become major issues. Always be available to assist chaperones and group leaders.
6. Be attentive to the program being offered; don't carry on private conversations with other teachers and/or chaperones.
7. Please turn off your cell phone or put it on vibrate. If you must return a non-emergency call, please do so during the breaks.
8. Teachers need to supervise their students during the breaks and lunch break.
9. If you take pictures, we ask you to please send us a copy for our records at sofritts@morganhillhistoricalsociety.com. Occasionally, we have the Historical Society photographer on site taking pictures for the Society's use.
10. ***Fees this year have been waived by the Morgan Hill Historical Society; therefore, this field trip is Free of Charge for the 2017-2018 school year.***
11. Remind your students that they should "leave no trace" that they were here. This means that everyone's garbage is collected and teachers take the garbage back to your school.
12. Please also remind your students to leave restrooms clean.

Morgan Hill Historical Museum and Villa Mira Monte Rules

1. Encourage students to show respect for Villa Mira Monte by talking quietly and walking behind their group leader during rotation switches between stations.
2. Students should not leave the property during the field trip nor go to the parking lot unless accompanied by a parent.
3. Students should not disturb the flora or fauna or engage in activities that might injure themselves or others (no rock throwing, tree climbing, etc.)
4. Students are requested not to eat or drink inside the buildings unless under decent supervision.
5. Students should not bring gum or candy on the field trip.

Directions

Villa Mira Monte is located north of downtown Morgan Hill on Monterey Road at 17860 Monterey Road, Morgan Hill. The Villa Mira Monte site includes the Morgan Hill Museum, the Hiram Morgan Hill House, and the Centennial History Trail. Parking can be found on the street in front of the property and at the back of the property. Please do not park in the church parking lot next door. Cars parked there will be towed.

History of Villa Mira Monte

This property is named for its beautiful view of the surrounding foothills, especially Mt. El Toro. The house was built in the Queen Anne country-style by Hiram Morgan Hill as a country retreat for his new bride, Diana Murphy Hill. It was constructed from 1884-1886; the Hills resided here from 1886-1894. From 1894-1912, the Hills traveled extensively, only occasionally visiting the house.

From 1912-1919 Villa Mira Monte was rented and occupied by the Hale, Higgins, Holly and other families. It was sold in 1919 to Raymond and Adelaide Costa, when it became home to them and their seven children. Around 1934, John C. Lane planned to purchase Villa Mira Monte for use as a funeral home and, as such, he was allowed to remove the central fireplace. However, Mr. Lane died in 1935, ending this plan. The Costas' maintained ownership of the property until it was purchased by Adelaide and Paul Walgren in 1939. While living in the house, the Walgrens established Homestead Antique Shop, which also operated out of the house.

In 1978, the site of Villa Mira Monte (including the Hiram Morgan Hill House) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. When Mr. Walgren died in 1981, the house was willed to the Lions Eye Foundation of California under a Living Trust for his wife. In 1984, she died, making the Lions Eye Foundation the new owners. Two years later, they deeded the property to the City of Morgan Hill.

In 1993, Villa Mira Monte was purchased by the Morgan Hill Historical Society for \$1 with the following promises: (1) to stop deterioration of the Hiram Morgan Hill House within five years and (2) have it open to the public. Financial assistance for the renovation included a grant from the Santa Clara County Parks Department and funding from the City of Morgan Hill Redevelopment Agency. On June 20, 1998 the wedding reception for Mayor Dennis Kennedy and his wife Eileen was the first event held at the newly restored house. In 2005, The Morgan Hill Museum was moved to Villa Mira Monte. In 2006, the Centennial History Trail was constructed at Villa Mira Monte to commemorate the City's one hundredth birthday.

Checklist of Items to Bring to Living History Days Adventure

Supplied by yourself, your students, and/or your parent chaperones:

_____ Bottled water for everyone to drink at lunch and/or break. Initials on top of bottles helps.

_____ Bag lunches for everyone with names on them; bring these in coolers/boxes/ bins so they can be transferred quickly. Many teachers bring an extra lunch or two in case someone forgets theirs.

_____ Large trash bags to take all recess/lunch garbage back to school; 1 per class is sufficient.

_____ First Aid Kit (for the occasional scraped knee; we have one if your forget yours.

_____ Cell phone (at least one among teachers to contact your school or buses if needed)

_____ Student Group Assignment Lists and name badges: students should be wearing name tags with their student group ID and first name when they arrive. Groups should be named for one of our founding ancestors "Diana", "Hiram", and "Murphy." Chaperones will be provided visitor badges upon arrival.

_____ Optional: Snacks (for the trail station), hats or caps, cameras, whistle, quiet lawn games

At the beginning and end of the day, a docent speaks to the entire group regarding the schedule, activities, and logistics of the day. After a small snack, we break up into three groups with an equal number of boys and girls, and an equal number of chaperones.

Station 1: The Hiram Morgan Hill House– On the veranda, students don aprons prior to entering the kitchen, where they learn what it would have been like to be a servant in Victorian times. Students wash their hands prior to their cooking class. They learn how to make a proper pot of tea and prepare butter and teacakes. After preparing the treats, students exit the kitchen, exchanging their aprons for abbreviated period attire of the upper classes. Then they present their calling cards at the front door, becoming guests of the Hills. In the living room, students learn a bit more about the house and what proper behavior and manners would be in Victorian times. They complete this station by having a formal "tea," eating the treats they prepared.

Station 2: The Acton House – Students examine artifacts and learn about Native American and settler life in Morgan Hill. They complete a puzzle, reconstructing a visual timeline of local events from 4000 B.C. to the present. Students receive a docent tour of both the permanent and special exhibits in the museum. The students are then admitted to the Archive Room, where older students examine and analyze period postcards for clues about their writers. Younger students write their own origin story and make a tribal insignia to reinforce what is learned.

Station 3: Centennial History Trail and Villa Mira Monte Grounds – Under the docent's direction, the teacher or chaperone accompanies the students as they make a human timeline then participate in a scavenger hunt in the Centennial History Trail, where they discover what was going on in the world during the time that specific events were happening in Morgan Hill. Under the docent's guidance, the students make observations of the Villa Mira Monte grounds, adding their drawings to individual "placemats" of the site, learn about optical toys used during the Victorian era, make whirligigs, create calling cards, and, time permitting, read period books and play games from the 1800's.

Each session run 60 minutes with a 5 -minute passing break. We end at approximately 12:30 with an optional lunch period at the house.

Chaperone Duties

On the Trail and Garden – Help students find the items on the Scavenger Hunt list, as well as being good citizens in the garden. Be sure to keep them on the walking paths and not in the vegetation. Monitor the timeline, "placemats," optical toys, whirligigs and calling cards activities, handling the books, and playing the games. Help to clean up and return the books, games, and materials for the "placemats," calling cards, and whirligigs to their proper containers. Help is also needed to collect and bring the completed scavenger hunt worksheets, calling cards, and "placemats" back to your classroom.

In the Morgan Hill House – Help students wash their hands and prepare to cook. Monitor the making of butter. Help students dress as kitchen helpers, and then for the formal tea. When the tea is over, please stay back to clear the table, and reset the table. This part is **extremely important** for us to successfully have tea three times a day. Thank you in advance for your invaluable help.

In the Acton House – Assist the docent in monitoring the children's hands-on experiences with the objects from the Native American and permanent collections. In the Archive Room, help hand out and collect materials.

Lunch Time – Enjoy your time at the Villa Mira Monte House, but please help clean up the property. The grounds should be just as lovely at the end of the day as they are when your students arrive.

We appreciate your help!
These field trips would not be possible without your assistance.