



Grades K-5 Youth Programming at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill

*Shaker Village takes the safety of our younger guests very seriously, and adult chaperones are an important part of ensuring that students have an engaging, fun, and safe visit. Two adult chaperones (with at least one of those two adults being a school staff member) are required per guided program group (students are typically divided into groups of 20-25) and must stay with their students at all times. **Groups that arrive without the minimum number of required adults may be asked to modify their scheduled programming.***

NEW FALL 2026! Fall on the Farm (60 minutes / Grade levels 1-2) – Fall was a busy season for the Shakers as they prepared for winter, and it is equally busy at Shaker Village's contemporary working farm. Join us at the farm to learn about some of the fall chores and responsibilities associated with everything from making apple cider and pressing sorghum to sewing quilts. In this self-guided program, chaperoned groups will cycle through a variety of demonstration stations at the farm (expect to spend approximately 15 minutes per stop; program includes 3-4 stops).

****Special, seasonal program offered during the week of September 22-25, 2026.***

NEW FALL 2026! Pleasant Hill & the Civil War (60 minutes / Grade levels 4-5) – In the fall of 1862, the Pleasant Hill Shakers saw their world disrupted with the arrival of the Civil War on their doorstep. Union and Confederate armies marched through the community, begged the Shakers for food, and fought the Battle of Perryville only a short distance away on October 8, 1862. We'll explore the Civil War from three very different perspectives, discussing what it might have been like to be a Shaker, a soldier, or a child living through this challenging era in American history.

****Special, seasonal program offered during the week of October 6-9, 2026.***

DAYTIME GUIDED PROGRAMS

- Generally offered Wednesday-Sunday (January-March) and Tuesday-Sunday (April-December), between 9AM-5PM
- Fees: Unless otherwise specified \$8/student for 1st program, \$5/student for each additional program (minimum of 15 paying guests)
- School employees receive complimentary admission; all other chaperones pay the same rate as students
- Includes general admission to Shaker Village (access to all exhibits and public programs)
- ***All programs include traversing unpaved terrain and ascending/descending steps (programs may be modified with advance notice)***

Shaker Life I (60 minutes / Grade levels K-5) – How did the Shakers' beliefs shape their community? What parallels can we draw between the Shakers and our contemporary lives? During this introduction to Pleasant Hill, we will begin together with a short music program in the Shakers' Meeting House and then divide into smaller groups to visit 2-3 other historic spaces.

****Strongly recommended that Shaker Life I or II be taken as an introduction to Pleasant Hill before additional programs.***

Shaker Life II (\$12/person) (120 minutes / Grade levels 4-5) – We'll uncover the beliefs, practices, and innovations central to the Shakers' unique way of life on this in-depth exploration of Pleasant Hill. After beginning with a short, communal music program in the Meeting House we'll divide into smaller groups to visit 4-5 other spaces throughout the site, including a dwelling house, the Shakers' innovative Water House, and our contemporary working farm and garden.

****Strongly recommended that Shaker Life I or II be taken as an introduction to Pleasant Hill before additional programs.***

Movers & Shakers (45 minutes / Grade levels K-5) – Express yourself! During this exploratory program, students will learn about self-expression through creative movement and dance. Join us as we connect personal experiences with one of the key communal practices of the Shakers.

Nature Hike (60 minutes / Grade levels K-5) – Welcome to one of North America's rarest ecosystems – a restored native prairie. We'll explore the many plants and animals that call this place home on a gentle stroll through Shaker Village's Preserve.

**This program is a hike across 1.0-2.0 miles of uneven terrain. Shaker Village hikes generally run rain or shine; program may be modified or cancelled in case of severe inclement weather (thunderstorms, snow, etc.)*

Where the Wild Things Live Hike (\$12/person) (90-120 minutes / Grade levels 4-5) – Using our senses, we'll explore the many plants and animals that call Shaker Village home, discovering how they fit together into a diverse ecosystem. We'll especially be on the lookout for any animal tracks that might tell us more about our non-human neighbors.

**This program is a hike across 1.5-3.0 miles of uneven terrain. Shaker Village hikes generally run rain or shine; program may be modified or cancelled in case of severe inclement weather (thunderstorms, snow, etc.).*

Swept Away (30-45 minutes / Grade levels 2-5) – Pleasant Hill was a thriving and industrious community, supported by the Shakers' production of an assortment of goods for sale. Brooms were a key industry at Pleasant Hill, and we'll use them as a case study to explore the business side of life at Pleasant Hill. Students will also get to make their own mini whisk broom to take home.

NIGHT HIKES

- Generally offered Wednesday-Sunday (January-March) and Tuesday-Sunday (April-December), between 5PM-10PM
- Fees: \$20/person (minimum of 15 paying guests)
- All Night Hikes include 1.5-3.0 miles of walking. Shaker Village hikes generally run rain or shine; program may be modified or cancelled in case of severe inclement weather (thunderstorms, snow, etc.)

Night Hike (90-120 minutes / Grade levels 4-5) – Take an evening hike through Shaker Village's Preserve and enjoy the wonders of the nighttime natural world. Topics change seasonally, ranging from an autumn "owl prow" to a summertime firefly hike.

SHAKER-INSPIRED CRAFT WORKSHOPS

- Generally offered Wednesday-Sunday (January-March) and Tuesday-Sunday (April-December), between 9AM-5PM
- Fees are charged per person, based on the number of participants completing the activity (minimum of 10 paying guests)
- Maximum group size of 25 participants per session; certain workshops may be able to run with concurrent sessions
- Workshop durations are approximate; activities may take less time with smaller groups

Butter Making (60 minutes / Grade levels 2-5) – The Shakers used the natural bounty of their farm to provide for their community. Gallons of milk were churned into butter daily, while other daily surplus could be converted into cheese or even ice cream! We'll churn our own butter for tasting, with the option of flavoring it with fresh herbs from our herb garden.

\$20/person

Dipped Beeswax Candles (60-90 minutes / Grade levels 2-5) - During Pleasant Hill's heyday, the Shakers cultivated dozens of beehives, valuing the bees both for their important role as pollinators and for their production of honey and wax. We'll discuss Shaker Village's continuation of this long tradition before making our own candles over an open fire. *Weather dependent; program cannot run on rainy days.*

\$20/person

Herbs for Home & Health (30 minutes / Grade levels 2-5) - The Shakers grew, prepared and sold herbs for many purposes across the country. We'll learn about different herbs and how they can be used, and then conclude by mixing an herbal tea blend to take home in a sachet.

\$15/person

WAGON RIDES

- Generally offered Wednesday-Sunday (January-March) and Tuesday-Sunday (April-December), between 9AM-8PM
- Fees: \$375 for the first hour; \$150 for each additional hour (does not include general admission to Shaker Village)

Hay Wagon Rides (60 minutes) – There's no better way to maximize your views of Shaker Village's 3,000 acres than to take a tractor-pulled wagon ride! An interpreter will provide a narrated program as you traverse the rolling hills of Central Kentucky in style.

**Limited to 25-30 people/ride.*