

Preparing for Your Taking Tea Visit

Schedule of Activities:

Please arrive on time to avoid shortening your program at either site.

Arrive at Rose Hill Mansion (9:30am or 10:45am)

- Buses may park and let students off in the bus loop on the north side of the house. Cars can park in the lot behind the Visitor Center (green building).
- Enter the house at the door on the north side of the house.
- If your group is early, please wait on the bus or take your students around to see the yard and the front of the house. If you are scheduled at 10:45, please be sure the students from the 9:30 group have left the house before bringing your group to the door.
- The house tends to be very chilly in the spring, even when it is warm outside. Have the students wear their coats inside so that they will be warm enough.
- Classes should enter as a group. The teacher or the first student in line should knock on the door and wait for someone to open it, greet them, and usher them in.
- The first portion of the program takes place in the kitchen. Here students will meet our interpreter and learn about the Swan family and their lives on the Rose Hill property. They will churn butter to experience how food was processed in homes and on farms. Children will be able to sample the butter and buttermilk they make on a store-bought cookie. The second part of the program is a tour of the first floor of the house.
- Board the bus at 10:30am or 11:45am and travel to Seneca Falls.
- There are limited restrooms in a separate building at Rose Hill for use before or after the program starts. Restrooms are also available at the Seneca Falls Public Library (47 Cayuga Street) during the time between classes. Classes may also make reservations to eat lunch in the library's Community Room. *There are not sufficient restrooms inside either Rose Hill or Becker House to accommodate classes.*

Arrive at Becker House (11:15am or 12:30pm)

- Please do not enter the house until the previous group has exited.
- Students should line up at the front door of the house (not the rear public entrance), knock on the door, and wait for the maid to answer. After the students are admitted to the hallway and remove their coats, each student should present his or her calling card to the maid [see reverse] and she will announce them to Mrs. Becker.
- At Becker House students will have tea and cake with Mrs. Becker and, as time permits, see some of the first floor with the maid.
- Board the bus at 12:15pm or 1:30pm

For additional pre- and post-visit materials and activities, please visit <https://historicgeneva.org/school-programs/taking-tea/>

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Suggestions for an enjoyable visit

- Have students prepare a calling card to give to Mrs. Becker to announce their identity. Please make sure the names are legible (if you prepare them using a cursive font on a computer they will resemble the printed cards of the time). See Historic Geneva website for more information on calling cards.
- Encourage your students to ask Mrs. Becker questions to involve them as much as possible in the experience.
- *If students ask questions about modern technology Mrs. Becker will remain in character and feign ignorance of the technology.* While sometimes amusing, this situation can take time away from the program, so discourage your students from intentionally asking such questions.
- Students and adults may *unobtrusively* take photographs provided they are for personal use only. Please keep in mind this can take time from the tour and that photography can be very distracting for the presenter. Flash photography is not permitted at Rose Hill.
- **Alert us** if you have any students with special needs (must have access to a bathroom, mobility impairment, uses an assistive hearing device, etc.) or severe food allergies.
- Especially with classes of 20 or more students, please limit the number of chaperones to no more than one per five children. The program space and seating is limited at each house and extra adults cannot be accommodated.
- Arrive on time at each location. If you are unavoidably delayed, call the Historic Geneva office (315-789-5151), Rose Hill Mansion (315-789-3848) or Seneca Falls Historical Society (315-568-8412) after 9 a.m. You can also email Anne at educator@historicgeneva.org. Time lost will shorten your program.
- To help students imagine their travel back in time to the Becker House, encourage them to dress in costume. Clothing does not need to be accurate or elaborate but should help the students' imaginations.
 - Girls should wear blouses and skirts or dresses. If they only have summer-type dresses, be sure that they wear sweaters or a long-sleeved T-shirt underneath. Bonnets, hats, gloves, scarves, or shawls add to their costumes. Sweaters are good if it is cold. They should not wear high heels, as the outside walkways can be hazardous.
 - Boys should wear button-down shirts, dark-colored pants, and dress shoes if possible. Pants can be tucked into dark knee socks to look like knickers. Again, hats, vests, or suit-type jackets can also be worn.
- Please fill out the online evaluation you will be emailed after the program. We welcome your feedback, which helps us continually improve Taking Tea.