

Fall 2019 Trainings for Guides and Docents

Tuesday, 9/17, **2-4pm**: Introductions; Resources; Skulls
Catherine Boston and Dede Smith

This training will be a time to introduce ourselves to each other and, particularly, for me to meet those of you who I have not met yet. We will spend some time reviewing the various resources available to you as Ivy Creek Guides and Docents (some of which will be new to even the more experienced guides/docents): the online version of the guide manual and newly created docent manual; a series of GPS guided tours available through the Ivy Creek website and created by Dede Smith; the most updated and accurate information on the cultural heritage of River View Farm through the storymapping process of Erik Irtenkauf; the library in the education building; the laminated nature guides in the barn; and more. The skull table in the barn has been updated and we will spend some time there identifying what is there and learning how to incorporate the table into your school tour. I will ask for your input on some new experiential tools I would like to try around the many skulls available at Ivy Creek. We will end by walking a portion of one of the GPS tours with Dede.

Tuesday, 9/24, **2-4pm**: History of the Ivy Creek Natural Area and River View Farm
Dede Smith

We will start indoors and Dede will share some of the history of the Carr-Greer family and of the land that became Ivy Creek Natural Area. She will point out places along the trails where this history presents itself and talk about the ways that this story can impact children and the ways to incorporate it into a school tour and/or barn tour. She will review the audio tour technology and then we will get to walk one of them.

Tuesday, 10/1, **2-4pm**: Tour of the Pollinator Garden; Trees and SOLs
Tana Herndon and Catherine Boston

We will begin this training with Tana Herndon who will give us a tour of the pollinator garden, talk about its creation and the plants found there as well as an introduction to some of the pollinators you might find there with the children on tours. Afterwards I would like to talk about trees at Ivy Creek with a particular focus on how to talk about them on a tour based on the SOLs for their grade. I have the list of the SOLs for each grade and would love your help/creative ideas/experiences to help make a useful guide for the manual. We will spend at least some of this time with actual trees along the trails.

Tuesday, 10/8, 2-4pm: Bees
Karen Hall

Karen will talk about honeybees, their behavior and physiology; the ways hives are organized and how our hive, in particular, is unusual. We will spend time in the barn with the hive where she will talk about interacting with children and the bees: what are appropriate interactions and how to creatively share information with school children. Karen is putting together a list of some plants at Ivy Creek that could be food for honeybees and approximately when they bloom. We will end by walking the trails identifying some of these plants (particularly the ones that might be blooming now).

Saturday, 10/12 or 10/19, **10am-12pm**: TBD

Tuesday, November 5, **2-4pm**: Barn Tour
Dan Kulund

Dan Kulund will talk to us about the farmstead and focus on the architecture of the barn, how it was built, and the tools used to build it. Next we'll consider the "living machines" that provided horsepower, and look at harnesses, hitches, and simple machines that were pulled in the fields. We'll assess the innovative hay-transport system that made Conly Greer's big two-story barn practical. Finally, dairying was a big part of farm life so we'll talk about the cows and share ideas on how to incorporate Tillie, the milking cow, into the story of the barn.