



Teacher Packet



1889 Territorial Schoolhouse

124 E. 2nd Street, Edmond, OK 73034
405-340-0078

Dear Educator,

We are very fortunate to relive Oklahoma history inside the walls of the first one-room schoolhouse in Oklahoma Territory that sits in its' original location in Edmond! The schoolhouse experience we offer will take your students back in time, helping them to learn history in an interactive, hands-on and historically accurate setting.

Your students will become "scholars" for the day with the same instruction, activities, and play experienced by the first Edmond scholars including penmanship with an inkwell and pen, ciphering, recitation and games such as hoops and graces. Our schoolmarms are certified Oklahoma teachers. With a day at the schoolhouse, your students experience the difference between school in 1889 and today.

This packet includes specific information about the schoolhouse day as well as other information that will help you prepare your students for this memorable experience. It is our goal that this "day in 1889" will be a highlight in your students' year!

Please contact Anna Studstill at astudstill@edmondhistory.org or 340-0078 with any questions you may have.

We look forward to welcoming your students to a "day in the 1889 Schoolhouse"!

Sincerely,

Linda Birsner, Carol Anderson, and Richelle Mitchum
Resident Teachers & Schoolmarms

Sample letter for sending home to parents

Dear Parents,

Your student has the opportunity to spend the day at the First Territorial Schoolhouse in the state, located on Second Street in Edmond. Your child will assume the role of "scholar" for the day, "1889 style". They will relive Oklahoma history through lessons, activities, and even lunch in a historically accurate and realistic way under the direction of the "schoolmarm".

We need your help to make this experience as meaningful as possible! We are asking the students to *dress in character* for the day, resembling the dress of 1889. Girls would have worn longer skirts or dresses (mid-calf would be fine) boots, and possibly an apron and bonnet. Hair would have probably been braided or tied back with a ribbon. Boys would have most likely worn overalls or blue jeans with a plaid or cotton shirt. They might have worn suspenders (this could be a rope, twine or black elastic), vests and boots. Boys may have worn hats to school, but they would have removed them before coming in to the schoolhouse. Be creative, but please do not stress about this! Grandparents, older students, garage sales, and thrift stores (i.e., Goodwill) may have some dress items that you can use or adapt. *More simple, easy to put together dress ideas are available at www.ehow.com/list_pioneer-costumes-kids.html and other internet search sites.

Lunch is part of this learning experience. Your child will need to bring a lunch from home the day of the field trip. Scholars would have brought their lunch in a pail, probably made from a coffee can or lard can. We can also use large vegetable or fruit cans or a clean unused paint can (available at hardware stores). Cans with writing on them can be painted or covered with brown paper. To make the handle, simply punch holes in the top sides of the can using a nail and hammer. A piece of wire or heavy twine fastened through the top two holes will serve as a handle. A scrap of cloth makes a cover. Baskets or even a cloth sack could also be used to hold your student's lunch. The only beverage would have been water from a tin cup. You might want to use an empty, clean soup can for this. Water will be available at the schoolhouse. Lunch items would have been simple. There were no baggies or paper towels in 1889! Lunch would have been wrapped in a cloth. Listed below are a few examples of what might have been in a typical lunch pail.

- Simple sandwich of bread & cheese or meat
- Biscuit with jam or butter or cornbread
- Boiled eggs
- Fresh fruit; apple, pear, peach, or plum
- Fresh vegetable; carrot, cabbage wedge, or tomato
- A "homemade" cookie (probably sugar or molasses)

We are looking forward to a wonderful and memorable day!

Things You Need to Know. . .

FOUR WEEKS OUT:

Times: The field trip time is from **9:00am-2:00pm**. Please do not arrive early. If you need to arrive late or leave early please inform your schoolmarm so she can adapt the curriculum and schedule accordingly.

Submit: your class list of students' first and last names, designating boys and girls, to Anna Studstill at astudstill@edmondhistory.org three weeks in advance.

Lunch Pail with Cloth Cover: For generations, children have taken their lunches to school. In the 1890's children usually carried their noon meal in a tin syrup pail or lard can. A wire handle would be attached for ease in carrying the lunch pail. A replica of these lunch pails can be made from a 3 lb. shortening can, a large coffee can, a large vegetable/fruit can or a clean, unused paint can (available at hardware stores). Cans with writing on them can be painted or covered with paper. To make the handle, simply punch holes in the top sides of the can using a nail and hammer. A piece of wire or heavy twine fastened through the top two holes will serve as a handle. A scrap of cloth makes a cover. In a pinch, baskets or even a cloth sack can be used to hold a student's lunch.

Release Forms: We recommend sending the release form to parents 4 weeks out. Students must have the release form signed and turned to the Edmond Historical Society & Museum **two weeks** prior to field trip- along with payment.

TWO WEEKS OUT:

Payment: Please mail payment **two weeks** before your schoolhouse day or make payment arrangements with **Anna Studstill** at the Edmond Historical Society & Museum, **405-340-0078**. *(DO NOT call 405-715-1889 with payment/invoice requests and questions. This number is the schoolhouse number and for emergencies only.)*
Checks should be made payable to EHS.

Edmond Historical Society & Museum
Attn: Anna Studstill
431 S. Boulevard, Edmond, OK 73034

Pricing: \$5.00 per scholar. Teacher & 2 adult helpers are free. It is **mandatory** that each class visiting the schoolhouse have **at least two adults** accompanying the class, but no more than three including the teacher due to space. Assistance

during the school day, especially with supervision of bathroom times, recess, etc. will be needed.

WEEK OF:

Nametags: Are MANDATORY and should be WRITTEN IN PRINT LARGE ENOUGH TO BE SEEN FROM THE FRONT OF THE CLASSROOM (1" letters) !

*Names are to be written as either Miss or Mr. as this will be the way scholars are addressed i.e., Miss Smith or Mr. Brown

***Hint....Two inch masking tape and a black sharpie marker work beautifully-and tape stays attached all day!**

Parking: Please use the parking lot located to the west of the schoolhouse for parking. Buses may use the alley directly behind the schoolhouse to drop off and pick up students.

Pictures: You are welcome to take pictures. *Pictures during instruction time should be very limited.* Please designate one person to be the "photographer" during this time in order to diminish distractions. Thank you☺.

Cell phones: The classroom teacher should have a cell phone with her at all times (on silent) for use in case of emergency. However, if you must make or receive a personal call, *please step outside the classroom to do so.*

Allergies: Please tell us ahead of time if there are any known allergies your student's may have. Also, we may give a peppermint candy to the scholars on occasion, so please let us know if this would be an issue for any of your students.

Weather: We will follow the Edmond Public Schools for school closing due to inclement weather. If Edmond Schools are closed, we are closed as well. Make up days will be scheduled according to availability. **Please check the weather and advise your students to wear coats if it will be cold! We do spend lunch and recess outdoors if weather permits.**

After Your Visit:

Correspondence: We encourage you to have your scholars write to their schoolmarm after the field trip as a follow up activity. The letters will be added to the binders that are kept at the schoolhouse. On the Saturdays the Schoolhouse is open to the public; the children can visit and find their letters!

"Miss Quay" or "Miss Lowery" or "Miss Mitchum"
431 S. Boulevard
Edmond, OK 73034

Emergency Procedures:

ATTENTION Teachers- Keep your cell phone with you at all times!

Tornado Procedure

If a Tornado Warning is issued in Oklahoma County the staff members at the Edmond Historical Society & Museum will be aware and monitor the situation.

If the weather continues to worsen proceed with the following:

- Contact Edmond Schools Transportation at 340-2962 and arrange for the students to be sent back to school. Advise the bus driver to stay close and be on alert.

If the tornado sirens sound during a field trip, proceed with the following steps:

- **First Option:** Take the students to the Edmond Historical Society & Museum, 431 S. Boulevard. A staff member at the museum will be on alert if there is a Tornado Warning and assist in this.
- **Second Option:** Take the students to the Jiffy Lube on the corner of 2nd Street and Boulevard.
- **Third Option:** Gathering the students into the 1889 Territorial Schoolhouse's bathrooms. The museum staff member will escort the students to the bathrooms.

Intruder

If an intruder enters the schoolhouse please call **911**. Have your cell phone with you at all times. *The Edmond Police Department is located only 2 blocks away. *Doors will be locked at all times. Teacher & schoolmarm will only open door for students, parents or staff from the museum.*

Contact Phone Numbers

Edmond Schools Transportation: 340-2962

Edmond Emergency: 911

Edmond Police Department (non-emergency): (405) 359-4420

Edmond Fire Department: (405) 216-7300

Historical Society & Museum: (405)340-0078

Jiffy Lube 405 340 6802

Edmond Public Schools: (405) 340-2800

Fire- We will exit through either the east or south doors and assemble next door at Jiffy Lube.



For Discussion with Students:

The lunch that the children bring to the schoolhouse should be authentic.

Ideas for discussion:

1. Brainstorm a list of possible foods in their lunch pail in 1889.
2. What fruit would they have? What food would they not have?
3. What did they wrap the food in?
4. What did they drink?

Children's lunches contained whatever was in their house. There were no neighborhood grocery stores or school cafeterias. Some children took molasses or lard and sugar sandwiches or cold pancakes leftover from breakfast. You may want to write down a "lunch" menu to take home to discuss with their parents to give them plenty of time to prepare.

Some Food Suggestions:

Sandwich (cheese, jelly, egg or meat)
Bread would have been a biscuit or homemade bread
Mayonnaise was homemade, mustard was not available
Hard-boiled eggs
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (apples, pears, peaches, grapes, plums, carrots, cabbage wedges, tomatoes)
Home-made cookies
Left-over fried chicken, bacon, ham

There were no baggies in 1889. Sandwiches were wrapped in butcher paper or in cloth. Food usually dried out. Aluminum foil was not available.

We will be drinking water only, brought in from the "well" so have each student bring a tin cup for water. You can use a washed out soup can or tin cups can be purchased from a camping supply store (Academy, Bass Pro, etc.)

Schoolhouse Rules:

1. Students will not speak unless spoken too. There will be no giggling, whispering or squirming in the desks.
2. When speaking, complete sentences and proper language will be used at all times.
3. When you wish to speak, you must raise your hand, wait to be recognized and then stand beside your desk before speaking.
4. Male students will remove hats before entering the schoolhouse.
5. All students will use poise and good posture. Feet are to be on the floor and hands are to be folded on the top of desks at all times unless doing seatwork.
6. All students will behave as young ladies and gentlemen at all times.

The most important rule in our schoolhouse is the golden rule:

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Teacher Check List – Schoolhouse Trip

Four Weeks Before:

___ Read the entire teacher packet.

___ Discuss dress and lunch ideas to help students prepare for an authentic 1889 school day. Teachers and parents should also be authentic and dress up as well. 😊

___ Send home Release Form for parents to sign.

___ Send home parent information letter to parents & help them with dress & lunch ideas for their child.

Two Weeks Before:

___ Make lunch pails or ask students to make these at home and bring them to the classroom the day of the field trip.

___ Make **LARGE** (1+ inch letter) nametags with Mr. or Miss and their surname (last name). *Two inch masking tape works fine 😊

___ Email student names to your schoolmarm at least two weeks before scheduled visit.

**Reminder: Our schoolhouse can accommodate your students, one classroom teacher and two parent helpers.*



Field Trip Release Form

I do hereby allow and give permission to my minor child listed below to participate in a field trip to the First Territorial Schoolhouse in Oklahoma, located at 124 E. 2nd St., Edmond, Oklahoma, 73034. I understand that the activities of the field trip may have certain risks and hazards, including but not limited to, tripping, falling and other related activities. I agree to release, indemnify and save the Edmond Historical Society, the City of Edmond and the Edmond Historic Preservation Trust, their representatives, successors, boards, and employees, and all sponsors and their representatives from all damages, claims and/or liabilities of any kind, injury, including death, which may be suffered by the aforementioned arising out of or in any way connected with participation in the field trip or arising from participation in the field trip. I indicate by my signature for myself and/or minor child that I/We are physically capable of participating in the activities of the field trip and knowing their risks, thereby agree to assume those risks and release and hold harmless the Edmond Historical Society, the City of Edmond and the Edmond Historic Preservation Trust their representatives, successors, boards and employees.

I understand that my image as well as my minor child's image may be included in a video and/or that photographs may be made during the field trip. A promotional or highlight video and/or photographs may be available for sale during and after the field trip and I consent that my child's image may appear on videos, and other promotional resources.

Print Name of Minor Child

Signature of Parent of Legal Guardian

Date

School Attending

The First Territorial Schoolhouse History Facts

The citizens of Edmond won the distinction of having the very first public school house in Oklahoma Territory. The first church was also housed there. It was completed in August 1889 and was located at the southwest corner of Second and Boulevard. They raised money to pay the first teacher, Miss Ollie McCormick, \$75.00 a month for the winter term. The settlers wanted a place for their children to receive an education. The Ladies Aid Society raised money so that the children could attend school free.

The Edmond Sun reported that the "tinkling of its little bell tolled the knell of barbarism on the prairies of Indian Territory." The first classes were held on September 16, 1889 with nineteen scholars. Thirty seven scholars finished that first school year. At the end of that year, Edmond celebrated with a picnic. Later that same year in July, a bell was purchased, another first for Edmond.

In the second year, enrollment at the schoolhouse increased to seventy students. Colonel Moose was the teacher that term. By January, the enrollment had increased to 100, requiring a division of the scholars. Miss Bowen took charge of the smaller children in the original building of the SUN, while Colonel Moose taught in the one room schoolhouse.

In February Colonel Moose resigned. His successor was Mrs. Twyford. In June of 1891, the first class graduated with nine girl scholars and nine boy scholars!

Timeline of Events:

- April 22, 1889- Oklahoma Land Run
- September 16, 1889- First Classes are held in schoolhouse.
- May 2, 1890- President Benjamin Harrison signs the organic act, passed by congress that officially creates Oklahoma territory with legal government.
- July 10, 1890- A 325 pound belfry framework is attached to the schoolhouse roof.
- Feb. 1891- The schoolhouse belfry is completed with a steeple-shaped roof. The Chicago Furniture Co.

manufactured school desks replace the original homemade ones.

- June 1, 1891 Commencement exercises are held in Edmond for the first graduates from a public school in Oklahoma Territory. John Mitch, president of the Edmond School Board, presents diplomas.
- September 5, 1892- The schoolhouse is enlarged with a 24-foot rear addition.
- August 21, 1899- Hardy C. Angela purchases the pioneer frame schoolhouse from Edmond Public Schools prior to the completion of the new stone school building.
- Jan. 2, 1900- The public school moved to the new stone building.
- June 1900, the 1892 rear addition of the old school moved to North Broadway.
- **Oklahoma became** the 46th **state** on November 16, 1907!