



*The Museum's foremost educational goal  
is to connect people with Concord's past through object-based learning.*

## **Education at the Concord Museum**

### **Exhibitions about Concord and the cultural history of the Nation**

A primary form of communication for the Museum, exhibitions create for all visitors a sense of excitement about Concord's history and its place in the development of New England and the Nation.

- Long-term exhibitions like *Why Concord?* stimulate visitors' questions and assumptions, link local to national events, and portray the diverse personalities that shaped these events, including the lesser known people behind the scenes.
- Changing exhibitions like *Keeping Time: Clockmaking in Concord 1790-1835* bring national attention to new scholarship in the fields of American history and decorative arts.

### **School Programs bring Concord's history to life through experiential learning**

Each school program uses an interdisciplinary approach to support the work of the classroom teacher and engages students in the learning process through hands-on activities, role-playing and first-person interpretation.

- At the Museum students explore the world of Henry Thoreau, cook over an open hearth, analyze artifacts and documents as primary sources, solve dilemmas as 18<sup>th</sup> century citizens and work with tin in the roles of apprentice whitesmiths.
- Special exhibitions provide the opportunity to develop new curricula, online teacher resources, and educational collaborations.
- Outreach Programs bring the Museum directly to students in the familiarity of their classroom.
- The Museum partners with other local institutions and schools to participate in grant-funded teacher workshops which provide a forum for sharing ideas, techniques and scholarship that enrich both the teaching and museum professional.

### **Tour Concord inside and out**

Tours meet the needs and interests of groups ranging from ElderHostel to the American Decorative Arts Society and from American Literature college students to three-year-olds experiencing a museum for the first time.

- Groups of all ages learn the true story of Paul Revere's famous 1775 lantern and can meet a living history figure to engage in conversation about Colonial and Revolutionary life.
- Student groups studying Emerson and Thoreau gain the unique experience of learning about historical figures directly from primary source objects.
- Customized tours meet the needs of groups studying unique topics, students with disabilities, and visitors with limited English.

### **Public Programs foster a lifelong love of history, literature, community culture and decorative arts**

A broad and diverse calendar of public programs maximizes the Museum's ability to reach a greater local, regional and national audience and to establish the Museum as a center for learning and cultural enjoyment.

- Lectures, Gallery Talks, Informal Discussions, Author Readings/Book Signings
- Community-Based Programs, Open Houses
- Living History Performances
- Family-Focused Programs
- Early Childhood Experiences, Hands-on Experiential Learning
- Craft Workshops
- Outreach

-continued-

### **The Cummings Davis Society for Museum Members with interest in American decorative arts**

Named after the Museum's founding collector, the Cummings Davis Society offers unique opportunities to explore in depth the finer aspects of American decorative arts.

- A rewarding way to support and preserve the Museum's collections.
- Visits to private collections and unique opportunities to tour important American museums and galleries.
- Gallery and behind-the-scenes explorations with Museum Curator David Wood.

### **Publications expand the reach of the Museum**

Museum publications sustain the interest of visitors, members and supporters and expand intellectual access to the Museum collections for a broad audience.

- Award-winning book *An Observant Eye: The Thoreau Collection at the Concord Museum*
- Award-winning Museum catalogue, newsletter and *Exploring Concord* video
- Articles in popular and scholarly publications including *The Magazine Antiques*, *Proceedings of the Dublin Seminar of New England Folk Life*, and *Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts*
- Photographs of the collection in textbooks, children's books, and scholarly publications as well as in programs such as the Discovery Channel's *Great Books*, the History Channel's *History Lost and Found* and PBS/WGBH productions including *Antiques Roadshow*.

### **www.concordmuseum.org - an informational and educational resource**

The Museum's website brings the Concord Museum to a world-wide audience, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

- The searchable online database of the Museum's Thoreau collection – the largest collection of Henry David Thoreau objects in the world is accessible for teachers and scholars through the Museum website or directly at [www.concordcollection.org](http://www.concordcollection.org).

### **Internships**

Structured Museum internships provide educational experiences for high school, college and graduate students interested in the fields of American history, literature, decorative arts and museum studies.

### **Staff Development and Volunteer Training**

All staff are encouraged and supported in their efforts to pursue educational advancement and further training. Training for Museum volunteers comes in many forms.