The Hoboken Historical Museum offers ongoing education programs on a range of topics designed for children in Pre-K through Grade 12, with content based on New Jersey (Core) Curriculum Standards. Our programs invite students to explore local history through artifacts, maps and other primary sources, encouraging thoughtful and personal connections between their in-school lessons and outside lives. Understanding Hoboken through its unique cultural history, architecture and industrial past not only enhances curricular studies but also lays the groundwork for future inquiry and engagement.

Arrange a visit to the Museum with your students or troop members to interact with our current exhibit or to take advantage of our other educational programs and tours.

Please email the Education Curator at: education@hobokenmuseum.org or call 201-656-2240 to schedule a visit.
CURRENT EXHIBIT:

With *Greetings from Hudson County: A Postcard History Then & Now*, the Hoboken Historical Museum extends its gaze to explore all twelve of the municipalities that form Hudson County. The histories of Hoboken, Bayonne, East Newark, Guttenberg, Harrison, Jersey City, Kearny, North Bergen, Secaucus, Union City, Weehawken, and West New York are presented here through a small, detailed medium: hundreds of vintage postcards that reveal our county's main streets, places of worship, banks, beer halls, parks, movie palaces, landmarks, and far-ranging industries. Featuring examples of Hudson County postcards that span almost 100 years, from the 1890s to the 1980s, this exhibit highlights how these municipalities communicated civic pride as postcards became a sensation in an era before universal phone service and email.

Although postcards originated as an inexpensive way to stay in touch, in time they have proven to be an important historical resource. Through this exhibit, students will find records of places past and moments in time, as well as views of many locations as they are today with the help of Augmented Reality technology. After downloading the free app, students can hold their phones or iPad to face one of 30 Augmented Reality-enabled postcards to see the image transform into the current view of the location and hear associated audio. For those who do not have a digital device, the Museum will provide an iPad for use while enjoying the exhibit. Students will also have the opportunity to complete a scavenger hunt, finding specific images throughout the collection. Magnifying glasses will be available to allow closer examination of the incredible historic details captured in each miniature scene.

ONGOING PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:

Our Neighborhood: Shapes and Patterns
Grades K-2, 60 minutes

Shapes and patterns can be found in buildings throughout the city and right outside our doors. Students will explore neighborhood architecture with their eyes, and then go inside to create a community mural based on the design elements of shapes, lines, and patterns. In this program, everyone is an architect!

Map It!
Grades 1-3, 60 minutes

Working cooperatively, students will be asked to observe their surroundings and then read or create maps and symbols, starting with the museum interior and expanding to their own neighborhood and the city. By following a map of the area around the Museum, students will learn to correlate places on the map with visible landmarks, gain a basic understanding of street gridding and apply that knowledge to Hoboken's geography. Examining local maps from different eras, will allow them to discern what sorts of information can be uncovered by reading a map, and how the built environment changes over time. This program is centered on the second grade curriculum for local geography, but can be adapted for younger or older classes.
**Community and Diversity**  
Grade 2, 60 minutes

This program focuses on the second grade social studies curriculum standards for Community and Diversity. By examining objects from the Museum’s collection representing celebrations of culture, festivals, and heritage, students will engage with the diverse cultural history of their community and explore how these cultural traditions are preserved and how they evolve over time.

**Destination Hoboken: the City and Immigration**  
Grades 3-5, 60 minutes

From Native Americans over 10,000 years ago, to Dutch settlers of the early 17th century, to large-scale immigration and migration of the 19th and 20th centuries, Hoboken has always been a community of immigrants – a people in motion. Ship manifests and immigration documents from the Museum’s collection provide primary source evidence of these migration patterns. This program asks students to consider the nature of immigration, who has immigrated, and why Hoboken has served as such an important destination for migrants from around the globe.

**History Detectives: Primary Source Investigations**  
Grades 4-10, 60 minutes

How do historians learn about the past? What is a primary source? In History Detectives, students will explore and analyze objects from the Museum’s collection to learn how to “read” artifacts, documents, and photographs. Developing skills of historical inquiry is an important way to decode objects, interpret the past and learn about the people who lived it. Content can focus on two main areas of inquiry: New Jersey Industry, which covers several discoveries and inventions from Hoboken that are an important part of our industrial past and contributed to the regional economy; or Notable Historical Figures, where students will be given written narratives about four historical figures with ties to Hoboken. Working in small groups, students will use critical thinking skills to determine which individual might have been the owner of the collection, and will then be asked to write a persuasive essay explaining how the primary source material led them to their conclusion. This program begins at the fourth grade curriculum level, but can be adapted for groups through the tenth grade.

**Traveling Trunk Program**  
Grades 2-10, 60 minutes

If you’re unable to bring your students to the Museum, we’ll bring the Museum to you! Choose from one of eight “Traveling Trunks” – historic steamship trunks, fully stocked with a complete interactive history workshop and primary source materials, ready to be investigated. Programs are easily adapted for various grade levels.

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Hoboken Fire Department Museum
(213 Bloomfield Street)
45-60 minutes

There's something for everyone at the Hoboken Fire Department Museum. Young visitors will experience an interactive Storytime program, and get a boost into the driver’s seat of the shiny red Ahrens Fox fire engine, built circa 1932. This “Cadillac” of fire trucks has been meticulously restored and occasionally stars in civic parades. Older visitors can engage in an interactive scavenger hunt and become immersed in the treasure trove of firefighting equipment and memorabilia documenting the evolution of tools and techniques used by Hoboken’s bravest.

Local History and Architecture Walking Tour
60-90 minutes

Focusing on the link between local architecture and history, our walking tour can be tailored to fit individual classes and grade levels. After first using visual skills to identify architectural elements in historic photographs, students will then identify and discuss actual buildings’ features as we walk. Discussions will focus on how various structures reflect our local history, and the way in which our community has preserved or changed the built environment over time. Tours offered in Summer, Fall and Spring.

Education Program Hours:
Monday: 9 am - 2 pm
Tuesday & Wednesday: 9 am - 1 pm
Friday: 9 am - 12 pm

All programs are $75 unless otherwise noted.