



## Teacher's Guide for Treehouse Tours

The American Tales Tour at Treehouse will focus on the Museum's *Great American Freedom Trail* exhibit, sponsored by The American Dream Foundation. Featuring our *Oval Office* exhibit, this tour introduces students into the American Presidency and those who have served as President, a tall tale activity in Treehouse's theater, and exploration of the *Declaration of Independence* with the *Independence Printing Press*.

### Prior to your visit:

1. Discuss what it means to be patriotic in America. What is it that makes America and Americans unique? Perhaps you can find out which other states, if any, some of your students have lived in and discuss the unique elements, products, people, and places that make each of our states unique and our nation as a whole strong and diverse.
2. Discuss the idea of the United States as a great melting pot of cultures and customs.
3. Introduce or reintroduce your students to some of our uniquely American folk heroes like Johnny Appleseed, John Henry, Paul Bunyan, Pocahontas, and Pecos Bill, among others. Which of these figures are based on real people? How do American folk tales and tall tales represent Americans in general? How do these stories reflect our views and values and what it means to be American?

### During your visit:

Treehouse Tour Guides will introduce students to our *Great American Freedom Trail* exhibit. While playing a live version of our interactive *Great American Map* game, students will be able to test their knowledge about these United States and learn about some of what makes each state unique as it adds to the union. Students will also participate in our Heads of State Game in our *Oval Office*, learn about the *Declaration of Independence* at the *Independence Printing Press* exhibit, and participate in a retelling of an American tall tale in our castle theater. Your visit will also include up to 25 minutes of exploration time for students to explore the Museum's exhibits in small groups with their adult chaperones.

### After your visit:

1. Have each of your students make plans for an imaginary trip to one of the states in our union. What landmarks would she/he visit there? What kinds of food would they hope to sample. What cities would they visit? Are there any famous people to meet or learn about there or are there any events in which they would hope to take part? Maybe this imaginary trip will develop into a future travel goal.
2. As a class (or individually) write some new American tall tales – stories that represent the ideals of the class. Maybe you'll be creating some new folk heroes for the newest generation!

*Treehouse School Tours are designed to assist teachers in meeting state and national core objectives in Fine Arts, including Theater and Visual Arts, Language Arts, and Social Studies. Please contact us if you have questions about how Treehouse's curriculum meshes with your curriculum.*



*Treehouse Museum is a nonprofit, educational organization whose mission is to be the magical place where children and families "Step into a Story."*

**Elizabeth Stewart Treehouse Museum**  
347 22nd Street • Ogden, UT 84401 • 801-394-9663 • [treehousemuseum.org](http://treehousemuseum.org)