



JACOB WOLF HOUSE  
HISTORIC SITE  
TERRITORIAL COURTHOUSE

## TEACHER GUIDE

### Welcome!

The staff at the Jacob Wolf House is excited to welcome school groups to experience the State of Arkansas's newest Historic Site! We offer programs and tours for all ages and are happy to work with your school or organization to provide an experience that will inform you about life on the Arkansas frontier. We hope you will schedule a visit to the Jacob Wolf House Historic Site and take advantage of the wide selection of programs we have to offer.

### Our Mission

The Jacob Wolf House Historic Site exists to protect, preserve and promote Arkansas's oldest public structure and interpret the cultural and historical significance of this Ozark Region from 1829 to 1863.

The Jacob Wolf House Historic Site is a public institution that embodies good stewardship practices for best protecting and preserving an early 19th century property. These practices are aligned with the Department of Arkansas Heritage, The U.S. Department of the Interior's National Historic Preservation Act and the State of Arkansas's policies and directives.

To accomplish this, the Jacob Wolf House Historic Site promotes educational opportunities for all audiences to enhance, engage and embrace a quality-learning environment.

The information provided about the Jacob Wolf House Historic Site are based on scholarly research.

## A Brief History of Jacob Wolf

Jacob Wolf was a merchant, builder of log structures, carpenter and blacksmith. He was elected as a representative to the General Assembly of Arkansas Territory in 1826. The two-story dogtrot structure was constructed by Jacob Wolf in 1829 as the first permanent courthouse for Izard County in Arkansas Territory. The Wolf House sits in present-day Norfolk (Baxter County) above where the White and Norfolk rivers meet. The building served thousands of early settlers finding their way into the central highlands of north Arkansas. People from the surrounding area would set up temporary quarters on the grounds to socialize and participate in their favorite activities while court was in session. Notably, John P. Houston, brother of American legend Sam Houston, served as a county clerk in this courthouse. The site was used as a river port, center of trade and as a seat of justice.

In 1835, the seat of justice moved to a more populated area, and ownership of the courthouse and land reverted back to Jacob Wolf, who used it as the family home from 1835 until his death in 1863.

The Wolf House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The National Park Service documented in 2013: “Notably, it is the only surviving example with at stagecoach inns and taverns.” It is the last remaining two-story dog-trot public structure in the United States.

Grant funds aided in restoring the historic structures on site and renovating support facilities and other site improvements. These improvements allowed for public programming to begin. Our period replica furniture in the courthouse was provided from a joint program with our agency’s conservator at the Historic Arkansas Museum. The John Wolf Cabin ca. 1832 is our second historic structure on the property.

The Historic Site will offer comprehensive interpretive themes from 1829 to 1863. Programming will focus upon:

- Territorial Arkansas
- River Travel and Trade
- Native American Culture
- Territorial Politics
- Early Statehood
- Slavery in the Ozarks
- The Civil War.

All interpretation is documented using various scholarly sources.

## Historic Site Facilities

The visitor center on site offers a small gift shop and a historic exhibit that showcases a frontier camp, completed with furs, tools and more. Restroom facilities are available as well as information regarding State Parks and other local and statewide areas of interest.

## Historic Site Hours

The Jacob Wolf House Historic Site is open year-round, but programming is not offered from December to February.

- Open: Tuesday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Site parking available from 8 a.m. to sunset
- We are typically closed for state holidays and other factors, such as snow or ice, that may affect hours of operations. Changes will be posted on the Historic Site's social media and at our visitor center.
- Teachers are requested to schedule their visit two weeks in advance. We will be more than happy to plan a visit including tours or programs. Program length varies; please confirm total length of visit with staff, including lunch or restroom breaks.

We are here to help, so please contact us with any questions or requests. Contact information is located on the last page of this guide.

## Appropriate Clothing

Please wear comfortable walking shoes and clothes appropriate for outdoor activities and weather. Tours of the Wolf House will be provided if the weather is not too severe. Programs and tours take place in the visitor center, inside the Historic Site and under a covered porch. Outdoor activities may have to be canceled due to inclement weather. Please call the Historic Site prior to your trip for a final confirmation of activities.

Note: The only climate-controlled building is the visitor center, so please keep this in mind for extremely hot or cold weather.

## Shopping

There is a small gift shop in the visitor center where guests can purchase various souvenirs. If your group wishes to spend time shopping or visiting the frontier exhibit in the visitor center, please schedule extra time on your trip beyond programming.

## Lunch

Sack lunches are permissible on-site. You may also eat your lunch at the nearby Corps of Engineers park adjacent to the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery.

## Accessibilities for People with Disabilities

The visitor center and the lower level of the Jacob Wolf House are wheelchair accessible. The path across the Historic Site is ADA compliant. If you are aware of any other ways we can help ensure full participation by a member of your group, please let us know when you call to schedule your visit or as soon as you are aware of a need. We are happy to assist whenever possible. Some restrictions with access exist due to the natural layout of the landscape.

## Directions to the Site

From Mountain Home

- Turn on E 9th Street
- Continue over the overpass onto Highway 5 South
- The trip is approximately 20 minutes from Mountain Home to Norfolk
- The Jacob Wolf House Historic Site will be on the right once you cross the bridge into Norfolk

From Cotter

- Follow Glen Street and Harding Boulevard to US-412 E/US-62 E/W Main Street
- Continue on US-412 E/US-62 E onto the Shied Hopper Bypass
- Exit onto Highway 5 South
- The trip is approximately 20 minutes from Mountain Home to Norfolk
- The Jacob Wolf House Historic Site will be on the right after you cross the bridge into Norfolk

From Mountain View

- Take Highway 5 North to Norfolk
- The trip is approximately 35 minutes from Mountain View to Norfolk
- The Jacob Wolf House Historic Site will be on the left just before you cross the river bridge

## Discipline of Your Group

You are responsible for the discipline of your group. This allows the Historic Site staff the ability to provide quality programs and respond to questions. We suggest a 1:10 or 1:15 adult to student chaperone ratio. Park interpreters reserve the right to end a program at their discretion.

To help protect your students and this Historic Site, please make sure all students follow the rules. All plants, animals, artifacts and features in the park are protected by state law. Please leave them for the next person to enjoy. While on tour, all students should remain with the group unless they are instructed by staff or a teacher to leave the group.

## Educational Programs

Including Department of Education (DOE) Strands and Framework

### Courthouse Tour

Join staff and learn about the daily operations of the 1829 Izard County Territorial Courthouse. Children will tour the county clerk's office, the courtroom and the juror's room and participate in a mock trial in the courtroom.

GRADE 7-8

DOE Strands and Frameworks: (H.7.AH.7-8.1; E.3.AH.7-8.2).

### Kid's Frontier Games

No computers, no phones, no Xbox...oh my! Students will participate in toe-sack racing, marbles, barrel hoop racing, hide-n-seek, egg toss (water balloon toss), corn-husk doll making or checkers. **Availability of games may differ. Check with Historic Site staff.**

GRADE 3-5

DOE Strand and Framework: (H.12.2.4, D2.His.3.K-2; H.12.3.4, D2.His.3.3-5; H.12.4.4, D2.His.3.3-5; G.8.5.1, and D2 Geo1, 2.3-5).

### Hunter, Trapper and Trader

Join Jeremiah Williams at his frontier camp and learn about the day-in-the-life of a hunter, trapper and trader on the Ozark frontier. Discover the challenges that faced trappers in this rugged territory during the 1820s.

GRADE 3-5 and GRADE 6-8

DOE Strand and Framework: (H.12.3.3, D2.His.2.3-5; H.12.4.3, D2.His.2.3-5; G.9.5.3, D2.Geo.4.3-5; and H.7.AH.7-8.1).

### Prehistoric Native American Culture

Learn about prehistoric Native American groups in the White River Valley and surrounding areas. Discussions include information about shelter, food and tools with demonstrations of traditional weapons such as the bow and atlatl. Our site's archeological timeline dates back some 7,000 years ago.

GRADE 3-5 and GRADE 6-8.

DOE Strand and Framework: (H.12.3.4, D2.His.3.3-5; H.12.4.4, D2.His.3.3-5; H.12.5.1; G.10.6.1, D2.Geo.8.6-8; and H.7.AH.7-8.1).

### Building a New Home on the Frontier

Do you have the know-how to make a home for you and your family? Design and construct your own cabin using miniature logs. Decide how many rooms your house will have and whether you want a second story. Completed homes will be judged for "Frontier Readiness." Pictures of traditional log buildings will be shown.

GRADE 1-2

DOE Strand and Framework: (C.3.1.2, H.12.1.3, C.3.2.2, H.12.2.3, C.3.2.3, H.12.2.5)

### Dig'n the Past

One of the ways we learn about past cultures and historical settings is through the scientific approach of archeology. Children join in on this mock dig to discover Liberty, Arkansas, 190 years ago and beyond.

GRADE 3-5 and GRADE 6-8

DOE Strand and Framework: (G.8.3.1, G.9.4.1, G.10.5.2, D2.Geo.5, 6.6-8, D.2.His.3, 4, 15.6-8)

### Art at the Courthouse

Students will draw or paint the courthouse as an interpreter talks about the history of the Jacob Wolf House Historic Site and the evolution of painting frontier scenes. Pictures and drawings of the Wolf House will be available so students can see the changes in the structure through its 190-year past.

GRADE 7-8 and GRADE 9-12

DOE Strand and Framework: (CR.3.7.1, CR.1.8.2, CR.3.8.1, R.7.7.1, R.7.8.1, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.W.7, CCRA.SL.4, 5, CCRA.L.6)

### Custom Design Your Trip

The staff at the Jacob Wolf House Historic Site is committed to providing programs that meet the needs of your group. You may pick from the list of programs above or make a special program request. If you have any suggestions for interpretive programs or educational activities you would like to see at the Jacob Wolf House, we are always open to new ideas and comments. *Note: Please allow at least two weeks for the development of new programs or activities.* School groups often split their time between the Norfolk Fish Hatchery and the Historic Site when planning their field trip. This provides different program opportunities and assists with best managing tours. Contact the Fish Hatchery at 870-499-5255 for scheduling information.

### Getting the Most from Your Visit

#### Off-Site Programs

Some programs may be provided at your school. Please check with the staff at the Jacob Wolf House if you have any inquiries about bringing the frontier to you.

#### Frontier Education Loan Boxes for Teachers: "Hunter, Trapper and Trader Series"

Examples of items found inside the loan box includes:

- Furs, pistol/rifle, round balls (ammunition), powder horn, knife, traps (frozen), possibles bag, clothing, cookware/utensils, candles/lantern, blanket, fire starter kit and sewing kit.
- Descriptions of the above "tools of the trade" and how they were used. Note: Toys will be used in place of actual firearms/knives, etc.
- Frontier children's book

### Plan a Pre-Site Visit

Whenever possible, we encourage school staff to make a pre-visit to the Historic Site. This allows staff to become familiar with the location, as well as with the site's facilities and the historic structures. Staff would be happy to provide a pre-visit tour of the premises and confirm any necessary details of the school visit. If teachers and staff are knowledgeable about the Historic Site before the school trip, it allows them to better explain to their class where they are going and answer any questions. It also familiarizes teachers and staff with the expectations of the site.

### Historic Site Expectations

Although Historic Site staff are happy to work with your group to provide the best experience possible, there is a limited amount of staff available. **Please reach out to the Historic Site as early as possible** (preferably two weeks in advance of planned visit). Groups have a maximum size of 25 people. If a class is larger, it is suggested half the class tour the Historic Site while the other half visit the Norfolk Fish Hatchery (and then switch off). Please be aware there are no microphones or speakers, so the louder a group gets, the less the Historic Site staff will be heard.

The historic structures have no heating or cooling, so it is suggested groups dress accordingly. It gets very cold in the Wolf House during the winter, and the wind is strong from the river. If in doubt, dress extra warmly. Arkansas summers can be very hot and temperature-appropriate clothing and sunscreen is recommended, especially for outdoor programs.

### Preparing Your Students

Research shows students retain information from field trips better if they have some prior knowledge about what they will see, hear and experience. We have teacher loan boxes available that allow students to interact with concepts from the time period we interpret at the Jacob Wolf House Historic Site.

### Post Trip Activity Packets

A post-activity survey will be provided to allow any feedback or suggestions. The survey can be emailed or mailed back. Please see the last page of this guide for contact information.



## Contact Us

If you have any further questions or would like to make a reservation, please contact us:

Jacob Wolf House Historic Site  
13775 Hwy 5 South/P.O. Box 37

Norfolk, AR 72658

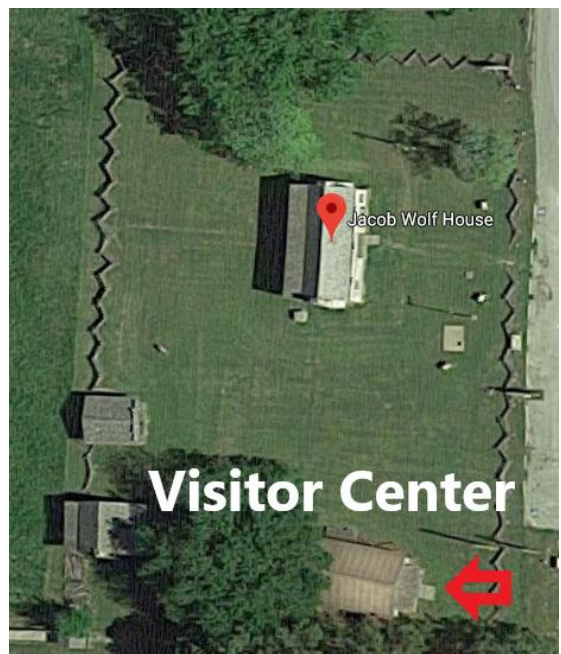
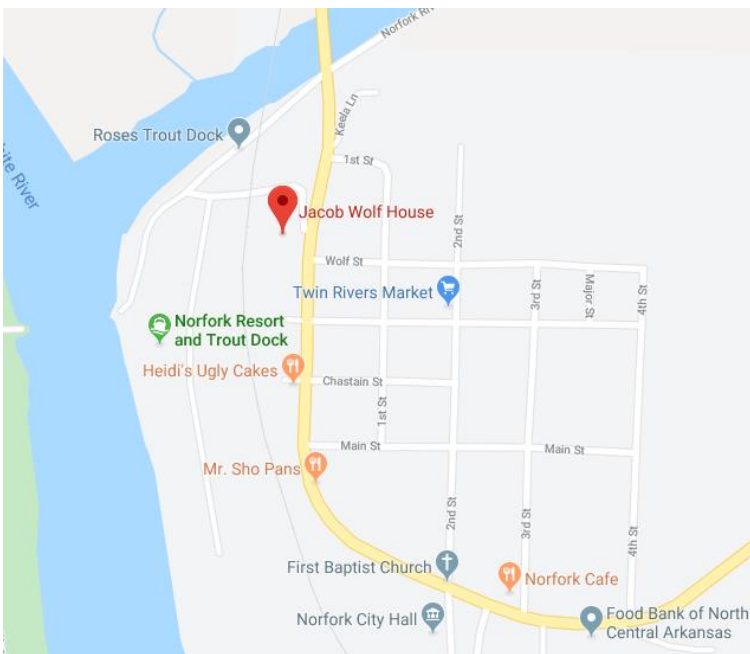
Phone: 870-499-0556

Email: [marlon.mowdy@arkansas.gov](mailto:marlon.mowdy@arkansas.gov)

[noelle.king@arkansas.gov](mailto:noelle.king@arkansas.gov)

Web: [www.arkansaspreservation.com/Historic-Properties/jacobwolfhouse](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/Historic-Properties/jacobwolfhouse)

## Location and Facilities



Jacob Wolf House Historic Site

P.O. Box 37 | South 13775 Highway 5 | Norfolk, AR 72658 | 870.499.0556

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org) | [JacobWolfHouse.com](http://JacobWolfHouse.com)

