

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site



Experience Your America



MAKING RESERVATIONS:

The enclosed information is vital for ensuring a smooth and pleasant trip for all.

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site

If I live to a majestic old age becoming the owner of a farm, I shall sit under apple trees in the summer and on a pad of paper with a large yellow lead pencil, I shall write of these things, lover of mine.

-Carl Sandburg, "Personally," *Honey and Salt*, 1963

Carl Sandburg, famed biographer of Abraham Lincoln, singer and collector of American folksongs, author of American fairytales. . . America's poet of the people sought to KNOW America.

He was involved, as a newspaper reporter, a poet, a movie critic, a platform speaker, and a syndicated columnist, in most major events of early 20th century American history.

Carl Sandburg spoke for those who did not have the means to speak for themselves through his poetry in books such as: *Chicago, Corn Huskers, Smoke and Steel, Good Morning America, the People, Yes* and other works. He spoke of social injustice, the affects of progress on the working class, racial strife, labor unrest, the widening gap between rich and poor, and the toll of war.

Two of Carl Sandburg's most notable achievements as an author and poet came in the form of the Pulitzer Prize. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in History in 1940 for his four-volume biography of Abraham Lincoln *The War Years* and a Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 1951 for his book *Complete Poems*.

The Sandburg family moved to *Connemara*, a 240-acre farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, from their home on the dunes of Lake Michigan in 1945. Carl Sandburg continued to work and published ten volumes of poetry in this serene and peaceful place. Carl Sandburg died here on July 22, 1967 and left a legacy of works about the American struggle behind.

On October 17, 1968 Carl Sandburg Home National Historic site was authorized by Congress as a memorial to the life and works of Carl Sandburg. It was opened to the public on May 11, 1974 as a unit of the National Park Service and as a testament of Carl Sandburg's significance to the American people. Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site is open for guided tours everyday except Christmas day. Please visit with us and experience the solace of this writer's farm.

MAKING RESERVATIONS

Minimum # of people required for a tour: 10

Maximum # of people allowed per tour: 15

Maximum # of people per day for group tours: 60

Availability for group tours: May through October; Monday through Friday; times will vary; **no weekend reservations.**

Confirmation: Confirmation and reservation materials will be mailed to the contact person specified by your agency within one week of the agreed upon tour date. The confirmation must be mailed or faxed to the park no later than two weeks before the scheduled visit. This gives us time to call in extra volunteers or rearrange schedules if your numbers, time of arrival, or date of visit is different from the original information given at the time the reservation was made. ***It is vital this information is given to the person representing your agency on the day of the scheduled visit.*** Tickets for the reserved tours will be available for purchase only when a copy of the confirmation is given to the fee ranger. Without this confirmation, the fee ranger cannot sell tickets for tours other than the usual public tours.

Fee: There is a **\$5.00** charge for each adult 16 years of age or older *to tour the house*; if the adult is 62 years of age or older the charge is \$3.00; there is no charge for visitors younger than 16 years of age; there is no fee to tour the grounds.

Activities: The following is a peek at some of the activities available at the park. The House Tour is the only "guided" activity, although, to avoid congestion in other areas of the park it is advised that your group split into smaller groups when visiting the barn, bookstore, and audio/visual room. When planning your visit, please keep in mind the average visitor spends two and one-half hours at "Connemara."

House Tour: Mr. Carl Sandburg and his family lived in this house from 1945 until Mr. Sandburg's death in 1967. They lived a simple life and surrounded themselves with things with which they were comfortable. Experience how the Sandburgs lived as a National Park Service Ranger or park volunteer guides you through the house.

Please remember tours are limited to 15 persons.

Visiting the Barn: Mrs. Sandburg owned and operated the Chikaming Goat Dairy. At its peak there were over 200 goats at Connemara! Mrs. Sandburg's goats were renowned for their quality milk production and superior breeding. Your visit to the barn is a self-guided venture, although, there are park volunteers at the barn who

would be happy to answer any questions your group may have about Mrs. Sandburg's Chikaming goatherd. **Please limit your group to 15 when visiting the barn.** Remember to wash up after visiting the goats.

Audio-Visual Room: Your trip to Connemara would not be complete without seeing our video of an interview between Mr. Sandburg and Edward R. Murrow. It is approximately 12 minutes in length and can be viewed by approximately 20 people at a time.

Hiking: Mr. Sandburg used to take his chair out to some of the rock outcroppings along the trail to sit and write or just to sit. He enjoyed observing his natural surroundings. There are numerous trails at Connemara, which vary in length and difficulty. Please allow time for your group to explore this beautiful setting. We encourage you to pick up a map at the park bookstore when planning your hike.

Ranger Programs: During the months of June through October National Park Service rangers give 30 minute programs about a myriad of Sandburg related topics from bird walks to cultural landscape walks, cheese making demonstrations to sharing the letters of Carl and Paula Sandburg. Please check with the ranger at the park bookstore for the times and topics of these programs.

Bookstore: Eastern National, in cooperation with the National Park Service, maintains a bookstore with a great variety of educational materials about Carl Sandburg, the natural environment, the civil war, and literature for young people. Please set some time aside to investigate the resources available for continued learning in these areas.

Special Events: You may be able to plan your visit around the Poetry Celebration, Folk Music Festival, Rootabaga Stories, Lincoln Festival, or Home for the Holidays.

Please call the park at (828) 693-4178 from 9am to 5pm, May through October, to make a group reservation or to inquire more about the park and the programs offered.

Thank you for considering Carl Sandburg National Historic Site as a destination for your visit to western North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Park Reservations Staff

FIRST COME/FIRST SERVE POLICY

When no reservations are possible, the availability of tours for your group will be based on the number of public tour tickets available for purchase at the time of your arrival to the park. With this in mind, please be sure to see the ranger in the park bookstore as soon as you arrive to acquire your tickets for the next available tour. There is no guarantee, without formal reservations, that your group will be able to tour the house together or in the time you have allotted for your visit.

During the months of June through October, you can expect public tours to run on the hour and on the half-hour beginning at 9:30am and ending at 4:30pm. November through May, there is one tour an hour, which runs on the half-hour beginning at 9:30 and ending at 4:30. The only day of the year there is no scheduled tour is Christmas day.

Park Reservations Staff

DIRECTIONS

From the West:

Travel East on Interstate 26 to exit 53.

Take a right onto Upward Road.

At traffic lights go straight, road name changes to No. Highland Lake Road.

At traffic light where the road is a "T," take a left onto Rt. 225

South, also called Greenville Highway.

At traffic light take a right onto Little River Road.

Go 150 yards and take a left into parking lot.

From the East:

Travel West on Interstate 26 to exit 53.

Take a left onto Upward Road.

At traffic lights go straight, road name changes to Highland Lake Road.

At traffic light where the road is a "T," take a left onto Rt. 225

South, also called Greenville Highway.

At traffic light take a right onto Little River Road.

Go 150 yards and take a left into parking lot.

