



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service  
Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
81 Carl Sandburg Lane  
Flat Rock, North Carolina 28731-8635



K18

Dear Educator:

Thank you for inquiring about education group reservations at the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, the first such site to honor an American poet. This 240-acre estate epitomizes the simplicity of life enjoyed by the Sandburgs for 22 years in Flat Rock, North Carolina. The following information will help you plan your visit and make your time here as enjoyable as the Sandburg's:

**Education group reservations** can be made for groups having a minimum of 15 or a maximum of 60 persons (80 for elementary schools). Please contact the park **four weeks** in advance. Dates are available year-round, Monday through Friday, in the morning hours only.

After making a reservation, the group leader will be mailed a confirmation sheet, which should reflect the date and times talked about over the phone.

Cancellations of reservations are inevitable; we ask to be notified as soon as this situation is foreseeable to open up the date for another group.

\*\*\*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.

Fee waivers may be granted to groups visiting from an educational or therapeutic institution. Please see below for more information regarding fee waivers. Upon the Superintendent's approval, an acknowledgement of a fee waiver will be included in your reservation packet. You may fax your fee waiver request to the Carl Sandburg Home NHS (828) 693-4179.

The following is a peek at some of the activities available at the park. 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 Sandburg’s lived as a National Park Service Ranger or park volunteer guides you through the house. **There is a 15 person maximum per tour** (20 for elementary schools).

**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. A time to visit the barn is encouraged and can be scheduled; yet it is a self-guided venture. There are park volunteers at the barn and who would be happy to answer any questions your group may have about Mrs. Sandburg’s Chikaming goatherd. **Please visit the barn in small groups.**

**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 14 minutes in length and can be seen at your leisure or placed on your itinerary for the day. **This room can accommodate approximately 20 people.**

**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. Trail maps are available at the Visitor’s Center. **Please be careful of the uneven terrain on the trails.**

**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.

Please call the park at (828) 693-4178 from 9am to 5pm, to make an educational group reservation or to inquire more about the park and the programs offered. We appreciate your interest!

Sincerely,

Park Reservations Staff

## How to Apply for a Fee Waiver

**The house tour fee may be waived for qualified groups.** Groups affiliated with an educational or therapeutic institution and whose purpose for visiting the Carl Sandburg Home NHS is consistent with the park's mission, may apply to have the house tour fee waived.

If approved, the fee waiver covers any students 16 years old or older (15 and under are free anyway) and any teachers and adult chaperones up to the 1:12 adult to student ratio (for example, with 48 students, the fee waiver covers up to four adults, between 49 and 60 students the fee waiver covers up to 5 adults).

To apply for a fee waiver you must write a letter to the park superintendent, Connie Backlund, on institute stationery, stating the learning objectives of your visit. For example, "*Students will be able to name two issues which permeated Sandburg's poetry after touring the home of Carl Sandburg.*" Your letter must be received and approved **before** visiting the park.

You will be notified by mail or phone as to the approval or denial of the fee waiver and in some cases the need for more specific objectives before the fee waiver can be approved.

You may fax your fee waiver request to: (828) 693-4179 or mail it to:

Carl Sandburg Home NHS  
81 Carl Sandburg Lane  
Flat Rock, NC 28731  
Attn: Fee Waiver Request