



## 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

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Dear Educator:

Thank you for inquiring about *Something About Sandburg* 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 should help you plan your visit and make your time here as enjoyable as the Sandburg's:

**Something About Sandburg** reservations can be made for groups having a minimum of 15 or a maximum of 60 persons and who have contacted the park **four weeks** in advance. *Something About Sandburg* tour dates are available March through June and September through November (Thanksgiving), on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

After making a reservation, the group contact person will be mailed a confirmation sheet as an agreement to the date and schedule 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* and \$3.00 for seniors 62 years of age or older. Fee waivers may be granted to groups affiliated with an educational or therapeutic institution. Please see below for more information regarding fee waivers. You will be contacted of the Superintendent's decision as soon as possible. You may fax your fee waiver request to: (828) 693-4179.

The middle school program is an interdisciplinary unit. It comprises of pre and post visit activities that relate directly to the on-site activities at the park. The **pre-visit** activities provide students and teachers with background information about Carl Sandburg and his wife Lilian "Paula" Sandburg. They are meant as a tool to enhance learning during the on-site visit. The **on-site** activities are intended to achieve both school curriculum goals and park legislative mandates. These are the essence of the entire program, without which a true appreciation of the park and its significance could be lost. The **post-visit** activities reinforce concepts and information learned at the park. It is our goal that this holistic approach to programming will significantly increase the students' retention of information.

The following is a description of the on-site activities. Schools are asked to divide into three groups of twenty and are lead through each activity by a National Park Service Volunteer. The three-program rotation takes approximately 3 ½ hours to complete. If your school has severe time constraints please call the park at (828) 693-4178 to discuss these before making a reservation.

**Carl Sandburg Home Tour:** Mr. Carl Sandburg and his family lived in this house from 1945 until his death in 1967. They lived a simple life and surrounded themselves with things with which they were comfortable. Come join a National Park Service Ranger or Volunteer and get a real sense of how the Sandburgs lived. The Carl Sandburg Home Tour includes a 30-minute interpretive tour followed by a writing activity.

**“Sandburg Alive!”:** The focus of this program will be on poetic expression, as Mr. Sandburg was in true form when presenting his own literary works. Students will participate in small groups to interpret, choreograph, and act-out a pre-selected Sandburg poem.

**All in the Family:** Mrs. Sandburg owned and operated the Chikaming Goat Dairy. At its peak there were over 200 goats at Connemara! Mrs. Sandburg’s goats were renown for their quality milk and butterfat production and Mrs. Sandburg for her breeding expertise. In this program, students will participate in pairs to investigate basic hereditary information of a particular goat. The focus of this program will be on dairy goat breeding for increased milk and butterfat production and for Chikaming bloodline preservation.

Mr. Sandburg used to take his chair out to some of the rock outcroppings off 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, after the scheduled program, for your group to explore this beautiful setting. We encourage you to use a map when doing so; there are maps in the Visitor Center.

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 4pm, March through November, to make an educational group reservation or to inquire more about the park. Thanks for 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 stationary, 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