



Ephrata Cloister
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Students Get Their Hands-On-History

Historic Ephrata Cloister To Host Community Day Program, Friday, April 27

EPHRATA, PA. – Colonial women busily spinning away on their spinning wheels, the celibate brothers and sisters helping to teach children the art of the quill pen, and a scrumptious snack of apple butter and rye bread at the bakery, these are a few of the activities that greet students each Community Day at the Historic Ephrata Cloister, 632 West Main Street, Ephrata.

On Friday, April 27, the former religious community of celibate brothers and sisters, founded in 1732 by German immigrant Conrad Beissel, comes to life again. With the help of volunteer historical interpreters and staff of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, who own and operate the site, and the Ephrata Cloister Associates, who provide support, children can learn not only about daily life in Colonial America, but also about some of the people they might have met at the Ephrata Cloister.

“Education was always an important part of life at Ephrata Cloister. Brother Obed opened a school for the local children in the 1740s,” said Elizabeth Bertheaud, Historic Site Administrator. “The Community Days program is a great representation of this continuing tradition and today helps us teach students about their heritage while having fun.”

The Community Days program, which will be held on Friday, April 27 and Friday, May 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., hopes to give students a hands-on-history experience, getting them in touch with their local roots; the Historic Ephrata Cloister being the origin of the now-community of Ephrata.

During Community Days students can travel with their chaperones to a variety of different education stations that teach them about colonial life, including visiting the physician, learning to write with a quill pen, and trying on colonial era clothing, among others.

The program is open to public and private school students, and home-school families, and is suitable for children ages 6 to 18. For groups over ten individuals, please reserve a space by calling the Visitors Center at (717) 733-6600 or emailing Andrea Glass-Heffner, Educational Program Coordinator, at c-aglass-h@pa.gov. Walk-ins are welcome.

Community Days costs \$6.00 per student – with every ten students one adult will receive free admission – and \$8.00 per each additional chaperone. Please plan a minimum of one chaperone for every ten children. For information on other educational programs offered and upcoming events at the Ephrata Cloister, please visit their website at www.EphrataCloister.org or www.Facebook.com/HistoricEphrataCloister.

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Caption: Just one of the many colonial crafts that students will learn about, Historic Site Administrator, Elizabeth Bertheaud, and volunteer Claire Moore, are hard at work on their spinning wheels. (Photograph Courtesy of PHMC)