



2023

spring and summer

YOUTH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES



Gammelgården's youth camps and activities are a place to make new friends and reconnect with old friends. All of the youth programs have been thoughtfully designed to educate and inspire children as well as emphasize teamwork, build confidence, and maximize fun!

Registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis, and our programs often fill up. We offer a waitlist for interested families.

All youth programs and activities are held at Gammelgården Museum of Scandia unless otherwise noted.

Questions? Please contact Ann Rinkenberger at media@gammelgardmuseum.org.



Fantastical Kurbits

Join art professor Alison Aune in a Swedish folk art workshop. Alison gives a brief background of Dalmålning, also known as kurbits painting or Dala painting, which flourished in Sweden in the 18th and 19th centuries. The kurbit was a fantastical gourd plant commonly used in folk paintings in Dalarna, Sweden, as a symbol of good luck.

After the presentation, Alison leads participants in creating their own kurbit interpretations as we revive the tradition using a contemporary color palette.

Offered: Saturday, July 8, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Ages: All ages welcome (elementary through high school students with a parent, grandparent, or adult friend; and adults attending without a child or teen)

Bring: Lunch, water bottle, smock/work apron, and change of clothes.

Fee: \$30 members/\$35 non-members (all supplies included)

Register at: tinyurl.com/fantasticalkurbits

Registration Deadline: July 3.. Limited to 20 participants.

Make your reservation early to guarantee a spot.



Immigrant for a Day

Step back in time as an immigrant making a new life on a small farm in the town of Scandia in the to late-1800s. As part of the annual Minnesota Museums Month, visit each of the five historic and fully-furnished buildings to participate in the work and play of residents of this small farm.

Visitors may be hauling water, packing a trunk for America, making butter, doing laundry, and playing games at "recess" in the new schoolyard. Visitors - children and adults - are invited to come dressed in period costumes to add to their experience.

Offered: Sunday, May 28, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Age: Open to people of all ages.

Fee: Free.

Registration Deadline: None.



Clover Blossom Schoolhouse at the Almelund Threshing Show



See what it was like to go to a rural school with all the students in one room. Classes for youth are from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. each day. Opening exercises begin with the Pledge of Allegiance and daily poem; and are followed by a Spelling Bee. At 11:00 a.m., there is a Trivia Bee, and then it's time for lunch and outdoor playground games.

Indoor activities resume at 1:00 p.m. with a craft project and language learning. The day ends with a sing-a-long that starts at about 2:45 p.m.

Offered: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 11-13, 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Ages: All ages welcome, although activities are designed for children in Kindergarten through sixth grade.

Fee: Admission to the Almelund Threshing Show (\$25 for all three days or \$15 per day. Children under 12 years old are free with adults). Once inside the Show, all activities at Clover Blossom School are free.

Location: Almelund Threshing Show, 17760 St. Croix Trail, Taylors Falls, Minnesota.

Registration Deadline: None.





Storytime with Lynne

Join us for a drop-in storytime in the Välkommen Hus that is open to all children! Gammelgården's Director, Lynne Moratzka, reads a story to children that is either set in Sweden, written by a Swedish author, about immigrants, and/or about early life in Minnesota. Parents/caregivers are asked to stay with their children.

Offered: On Wednesdays – May 5 and September 6, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Age: Preschool to early-elementary school age children.

Fee: Free.

Register at: tinyurl.com/storytimewithlynne

Registration Deadline: May 4 and September 5

The Tomte's Treasure Hunt: A Game of Hidden Artifacts

When children go on a tour or explore the historic buildings at Gammelgården, they look for artifacts that are pictured in The Tomte's Treasure Hunt brochure. Once they find the items, the tour guide can help them figure out how each item was used.

Offered: Throughout the summer during tours on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from May 6 through mid-October.

Age: 5-12 year olds.

Fee: Free.

Registration Deadline: None.



Story Stroll



We invite families to take a walk at Gammelgården and enjoy the Story Stroll. The Story Stroll is a free family-friendly activity that the whole family can enjoy together, bond through literacy, and spend time outdoors exploring Gammelgården's beautiful grounds.

Thanks to the Washington County Library, the Story Stroll features Elsa Beskow's *Pelle's New Suit*. This is a delightful story from the world-renowned Swedish author-illustrator Elsa Beskow which helps young children understand bartering, traditional wool crafts, and from where our clothes come.

Offered: Throughout May and June, during and after museum hours.

Age: All ages.

Fee: Free.

Registration Deadline: None.



Paint a Tomte

Receive a blank wooden tomte that can be painted or decorated any way you like. Have your artwork displayed on the tennis court fence at Barton Johnson Memorial Park (adjacent to Gammelgården Museum) from mid-August to the day after Taco Daze.

Offered: Wooden tomtes are available for pick-up on Friday, July 21. Artwork is due on Friday, August 11. The painted and decorated tomtes are displayed from Friday, August 18 to Sunday, September 10. Tomtes are available for pick-up on September 10 after 1 p.m.

Ages: All ages.

Fee: \$20 per blank wooden tomte to help support children's programs, and keep the costs affordable and accessible.

Register at: tinyurl.com/paintatomte

Registration Deadline: Friday, July 7 to reserve a tomte.

Opening Weekend and Birthday Party

Opening Weekend celebrates Gammelgården Museum's focus in its 51st year: Swedish Folk Painting Tradition and Innovation. Watch the craft and artisan demonstrators, visit the Artists & Crafters Fair, do hands-on activities for people of all ages, and tour the historic buildings.

Costumed members of the Living History Society of Minnesota demonstrate popular nineteenth century games appropriate for adults and/or children. Participants have the opportunity to engage in a nineteenth century game with members of the Society. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in a nineteenth century game with members of the Society. Popular games of the period include: Graces, Tail of the Dog, Hopscotch, Marbles, Jump Rope, Croquet, and Barnyard Animals.

On Saturday from 5-7 p.m., there is a birthday party for Gammelgården - with dinner and birthday cake as well as music and fun activities. Bring your blanket and enjoy a catered picnic dinner on the Gammelgården grounds, listen to music, and play old-fashioned games.

Offered: Saturday, May 6, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for Opening Day; 5:00-7:00 p.m. for the Birthday Party.

Age: Open to people of all ages.

Fee: Free for all ages for Opening Day; \$10 for the Birthday Party.

Register at: tinyurl.com/51stbirthdayparty

Registration Deadline: None for Opening Day. May 1 for the Birthday Party.



Activity Bags at the Scandia Farmers Market



On four days during the summer at the Scandia Farmers Market, Gammelgården gives out activity bags to the first 50 families. Each bag has a different theme with hands-on activities, word finds, and information about the topic.

The four themed activity bags in 2023 are:

- Gardening with Heirloom Seeds
- Native Wildflower Seed Bombs & Prairies
- Bird Feeders
- Migrating Monarchs



Offered: Four Wednesdays - June 14, June 21, July 19, and August 16 - at the Scandia Farmers Market, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Age: Open to people of all ages, although most of the activities are for 6-12 year old children.

Fee: Free, thanks to the generous support of the Scandia-Marine Lions Club.

Registration Deadline: None.

Dalapalooza

See a variety of Dala horses from the museum's collection and learn about their history. Receive a blank wooden horse that you paint and decorate. Hear a story about Dala horses while you paint. Frost Dala horse cookies.

Offered: Saturday, June 17 and Saturday, August 5, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Age: Open to people of all ages. However, children and teens must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Bring: Lunch, water bottle, apron (or clothes you don't mind getting paint on), and change of clothes.

Fee: \$25 individual/\$45 child/teen-adult pair (members) or

\$30 individual/\$50 child/teen-adult pair (non-members) – includes all supplies, a beverage, and dessert.

Register at: tinyurl.com/dalapalooza

Registration Deadline: June 12 (for June 17 session) and July 31 (for August 5 session). Limited to 24 people. Make your reservation early to guarantee a spot.



Comin' to Amerika

Come experience what life was like for Swedish immigrants in Minnesota in the 1800s!

Children can dress up in period clothing and work together to build a new life in Amerika – learning about immigration stories, honoring Swedish heritage, engaging in dances and songs, making crafts, and touring all the buildings at Gammelgården.

Questions? Please contact Cindy Epland at cindyepiland@msn.com.

Offered: Tuesday and Wednesday, July 18-19, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Ages: Children entering first grade through sixth grade.

Bring: Lunch, water bottle, and a change of clothes.

Fee: \$90 members/\$115 non-members (all supplies included in the fee including afternoon lemonade and snack).

Register at: tinyurl.com/comintoamerika

Registration Deadline: July 7. Limited to 20 children. Make your reservation early to guarantee a spot.



Sewing & Quilting Camp

Artist-in-residence Natalie Norman guides children on sewing a child-size pocket purse (kjolväskor) that American Girl Doll Kirsten wears. The kjolväskor can be worn around the waist or as a shoulder bag.

This is the perfect introduction to sewing and embroidery for children to learn these skills as well as for advanced beginners to continue to grow their skills. At least three embroidery stitches will be used to create the kjolväskor.

Natalie also shows children the many kjolväskor that she has created and how they compare to the historic ones in Gammelgården's collection.

In addition to the hour and a half that children work with Natalie each day, there are many other fun activities:

- Tour Gammelgården's historic buildings and discover items early settlers used in their everyday lives.
- Do craft projects.
- Play pioneer games – like Hoop-and-Stick as well as try out small pioneer toys including Cup-and-Ball, Jacob's ladders, Yo-Yo's, Spinning tops, and more.
- Spend time in the heirloom gardens and see what types of vegetables, herbs, and fruits were grown in 1850-1880.
- Explore the prairie and discover wildlife that calls this area home.

Children are encouraged to dress up in costumes reflective of pioneers and/or early Swedish immigrants.

Offered: Tuesday and Wednesday, August 8-9, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Ages: Children entering first grade through sixth grade.

Bring: Lunch, water bottle, and a change of clothes.

Fee: \$90 members/\$115 non-members (all supplies included).

Register at: tinyurl.com/sewingquiltingcamp

Registration Deadline: July 20. Limited to 16 children. Make your reservation early to guarantee a spot.



Little Immigrants Mini-Camp

Give your little ones the opportunity to imagine what it might have been like to be a child of an immigrant family in the late 1800's. This is an unforgettable opportunity for children to get outside, connect with history, and explore nature.

- Children are encouraged to dress up in costumes reflective of pioneers and/or early Swedish immigrants.
- Enjoy playing historic games, experiencing a sensory table with historical items, meeting animal friends who helped the pioneers survive, and sampling snacks that the immigrants would have eaten.
- Visit each of the historic buildings and do a hands-on activity and/or craft related to each building.
- Sample different fruits and vegetables that would have been grown on the farms of early immigrants.
- Spend time in the heirloom gardens and see what types of vegetables, herbs, and fruits were grown in 1850-1880.
- Explore the prairie and discover wildlife that calls this area home.

Offered: Monday and Tuesday, June 19 and 20, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Ages: 4-7 years old.

Bring: Lunch, water bottle, and change of clothes.

Fee: \$80 members/\$95 non-members (all supplies included).

Register at: tinyurl.com/littleimmigrants

Registration Deadline: June 1. Limited to 20 children. Make your reservation early to guarantee a spot.



Girls & Dolls Tea Party

Children (along with a parent/guardian and a doll) and people of all ages enjoy a desserts and sweets tea party, stories, and crafts.

Children are encouraged to dress up in their Sunday best and bring their favorite doll or teddy bear. This is a chance for children to come and learn about the tea party tradition and have fun.

There is a display of dolls and "fancy" dishes from Gammelgården's collection as well as a display of children's books available in the gift shop.

After the tea party, there is time for everyone to make a simple craft either for their dolls and/or themselves.

Offered: Saturday, July 22, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Ages: Kindergarten-age and older children and a parent/guardian, and individuals of all ages who enjoy dolls and tea parties.

Fee: \$20 individual/\$38 child/teen-adult pair (members) or

\$25 individual/\$48 child/teen-adult pair (non-members)

Register at: tinyurl.com/girlsdollsteaparty

Registration Deadline: July 15. Limited to 20 participants. Make your reservation early to guarantee a spot.

