



Admission

\$12.50 for Adults
 \$11.50 for Senior Citizens and Military
 \$7.00 for Children (12 and under)
 Children 2 and younger FREE
 Living History Farms Members FREE

2012 Hours of operation:

May 1 - August 19
 Monday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm
 Sunday, Noon - 5pm
 August 20 - October 14
 Closed Mondays and Tuesdays
 Wednesday - Saturday, 9am - 5 pm
 Sunday, Noon - 5pm

Special Events and Annual Offerings

Alongside touring the museum, Living History Farms offers many educational opportunities.

- Themed day camp for school-aged children
- Internships for college students
- Educational outreach programs on site and in local schools
- Historic baseball games, dinners, and harvest festivals
- Family oriented holiday activities

And entertainment opportunities

- Barn dances with live music
- An annual off-road cross-country race
- Special fundraising events

Living History Farms Executive Summary

Cultural Connections

Living History Farms connects the rural heritage of Iowa with visitors of all ages and backgrounds; from the local community to visitors from around the globe. Guests travel through time, experiencing a 1700's Ioway Indian farm, an 1850's homestead, an 1875 small town, a 1900's horse-powered farm, and a center of agricultural innovation during the last millennium.

History

Living History Farms was founded by Dr. William G. Murray, agricultural economist from Iowa State University in 1970 who had a passion for educating the public about historic farming practices and how they changed over time. The 600 acre farm was constructed around the Flynn Mansion; a railroad tycoon's home built in 1870. Historic buildings from around Iowa were moved to the site, and others were constructed to create an 1875 town and three historic farms. Of special note, the Pope visited the farms in 1979, drawing the largest public gathering in Iowa's history.



Grinding corn at the 1900's horse-powered farm.



The Flynn Mansion built in 1870

Challenges

As with all non-profit organizations, fundraising is always a challenge. Living History Farms continually offers unique events that appeal to diverse groups of people. The challenge the farms face is in create fundraising events that stay true to their mission.

Much of the work done at the farms is carried out by local volunteers. Recruiting enough quality volunteers and training them continues to take time and effort.

Built on the outskirts of a small Des Moines suburb, the land adjacent to the farms continues to be developed. Modern buildings detract from the atmosphere so new trees have been planted around the perimeter.



Cooking at the 1700's Ioway farm

Key People

Living History Farms is run by a board of directors and management staff. It is sponsored and supported by local businesses and community members.

Vital to the farms functioning is a dedicated group of volunteers, guild members, college interns, and day camp staff.



Raising oxen at the 1850's homestead



The blacksmith in the 1875 town

The Future

The future is bright for Living History Farms. With strong local community support and innovative new offerings, the farms hope to continue to educate future generations in Iowa's rural heritage.

Location

Living History Farms
11121 Hickman Road
Urbandale, IA 50322

Phone: 515-278-5286

www.lhf.org/

