



Educator Information

“Mending the Wounded” Interactive Program

Seminary Ridge Museum provides students with engaging and relevant educational programs. All interactive activities and learning resources investigate historical content while also teaching critical thinking and analytical skills essential to the formation of the next generation of citizens and leaders. Seminary Ridge Museum’s “Mending the Wounded” interactive program fulfills the following learning and affective objectives and meets National Center for History in the Schools Standards in Historical Thinking and Content Standards and Common Core Standards.

Program description:

It is often said that the Civil War was fought during the “medical middle ages.” Recent scholarship, however, has argued that there is a richer, more complex story to medical care during the conflict. By the time of the Battle of Gettysburg, medical personnel had developed the logistical and scientific knowledge to treat wounded soldiers in an efficient and effective way.

Drawing on primary sources, participants in “Mending the Wounded” take on the identity of a real doctor, attendant, or wounded soldier and learn how each group would fit into the structure of a Civil War Field Hospital. Students devote time to analyzing the different roles in guided conversations with peers, then view and participate in a mock Civil War amputation. This further introduces participants to the methods that would be used to treat wounded soldiers with as much expediency as possible.

Finally, participants have the opportunity to discuss the long-term effects of care on both wounded soldiers and the caregivers. Wounded soldiers were frequently plagued for the rest of their lives by their injuries. Doctors and attendants, under intense amounts of pressure following battles, sometimes succumbed to stress and would be forced to leave the medical service. These long-lasting effects are a topic that is oft-overlooked in the study of the Civil War and have current implications for understanding present-day conflicts.

Learning objectives (At the end of this activity, students will be able to):

- Describe how advances in weaponry during the Civil War contributed to the seriousness of wounds.
- Analyze the conditions of Civil War field hospitals, specifically, and Civil War medical care in general.
- Explain the long-term physical and psychological effects of combat on soldiers and caregivers.

Affective objectives (As a result of this activity, students are expected to):

- Participate in a discussion with peers regarding issues raised through program content.
- Consider human costs when advocating war over peace.
- Identify the obligations the nation and public have to soldiers they subject to combat.
- Display historical empathy.

National Standards:

National Center for History in the Schools Standards in Historical Thinking:

This program builds students' skills in historical comprehension, historical analysis and interpretation, and historical issues decision making and analysis.

National Center for History in the Schools Content Standards (Civil War and Reconstruction):

Standard 2A—The course and character of the Civil War and its effects on the American people: The student understands how the resources of the Union and Confederacy affected the course of the war. Identify the innovations in military technology and explain their impact on humans, property, and the final outcome of the war.

Standard 2B—The course and character of the Civil War and its effects on the American people: The student understands the social experience of the war on the battlefield and home front. Compare the human and material costs of the war in the North and South.

Common Core State Standards (6-8): CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.1-4, .6, .9; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.1-4, .6, .9; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.1-4, .6, .9; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1, .1.C, .1.D, .4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.7.1, .1.C, .1.D, .4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1, .1.C, .1.D, .4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1-6, .8-9; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.3

Common Core State Standards (9-12): CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.1, .3-4, .6; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.1, .3-4, .6; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1, .1.C, 1.D, .4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1, 1.C, 1.D, .4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2-4, .6, .8-9; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2-4, .6, .8-9.

For more information on National Center for History in the Schools standards, visit www.nchs.ucla.edu.

For more information on Common Core standards, visit www.corestandards.org.

For information on how this and other programs at the Seminary Ridge Museum meet state standards, contact Peter Miele, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Education, at pmiele@seminaryridge.org.