

2018 Education Report

The Historic Harvey House is the oldest building in Salinas, serving as a history, art and cultural center for the community.

Education is our primary mission. In 2018 over 1,500 students visited the House to learn about life in the 1870s (3rd grade) and about the westward movement (5th grade). In addition, Boy and Girl Scouts, students in after school programs, and homeschool students visited. Third graders toured the House, handled tools, pumped water, used a washboard to launder socks, made butter, and touched and smelled medicinal herbs. graders experienced life on a wagon train as they participated in a simulation game that teaches math, creative thinking and problem solving. CSU-Monterey Bay service learners joined local retired teachers and community members to form our volunteer docent pool and make this happen.

In addition, we hosted several Teacher in-services. Many Salinas teachers come from outside the area, so we offered trainings to provide the background information that they need to teach local history and the westward movement. Lesson ideas, resources, print and digital materials are provided to make instruction fun and easy and to make the visits to the House more meaningful.

The Education Center was remodeled during the summer of 2017. It now provides gallery space for a variety of presentations. So far, exhibits highlighting the lives of Florence Baker and Mabel Harvey have been unveiled. For Founders Day, a mobile display honoring the immigrants who built Salinas was showcased. Finally, in 2018, Founders Day celebrated the 150th anniversary of the founding of Salinas-when Alanson Riker and Eugene Sherwood subdivided the land in the big bend in the Alisal Slough. Over 10,000 visitors attended the celebration and 1,000 toured the Historic Harvey House. All of this was made possible by our dedicated volunteers.

Mary Randall, Education Coordinator
and Mary Jane Choate, Volunteer Coordinator