

TIPS FOR SURVIVING FIELD DAY OF THE PAST 2021

Welcome to the Field Day of the Past

We would like your visit to be a pleasant and fun one, so we have designed these tips to provide information on what you are about to experience and some suggestions to help you make the most of your time with us. Browse through the guide before you leave home, and bring it with you.

Who, What, When and Where

Before you get started, let us introduce ourselves. Field Day of the Past is an annual event sponsored by the Rockville-Centerville Steam & Gas Historical Assoc, a nonprofit organization operating under Section 501(c)(3) of the Codes of the Internal Revenue Service. The event is organized and manned by volunteers and we always welcome a new face.

The show grounds are located at Redfield Farm, 11404 Circle Dr. just off Rt. 360 in Amelia County, six miles east of Amelia Courthouse. This address is the Appomattox River Park and Ride. The grounds are directly behind the parking lot. Signs will be posted on Rt. 360 from both directions to direct you into the parking lot. Parking is free and transportation is provided to the show. **The best way to avoid the traffic is to arrive early, particularly on Saturday.**

Show days are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17-19. The gates open at 8 a.m. and most exhibits shut down at 6 p.m. Truck events are held at 7 p.m. on Friday and 6 p.m. on Saturday. Sunday hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adult admission is \$15 per person per day.

Guests 65 and older will be admitted for \$10. Enter the pedestrian gate. This year we will be using arm bands. Please wear your arm band while you are one the grounds. If you plan to leave and return on the same day, you must be wearing the arm band before re-entering or you will be required to buy another one. Arm bands are good for the entire day, including truck pulls on Friday and Saturday nights.

The Information Booth is located just inside the grounds, through the main gate. The booth is manned with volunteers armed with maps, schedules and other information. For information prior to the show, call 804-741-8468 or visit the website at

www.fielddayofthepastnet. Pertinent information can be obtained from this number during show days, including changes due to inclement weather, but the phone is not manned. It will refer you to other numbers if you need to call. **Be aware, however, we receive a lot of calls on show days and make every effort to answer you, but it is not always possible to do so.**

Please Be Safe

First and foremost, make your trip a safe one. Observe all safety rules and adhere to staff requests, and keep track of the kids. Stay alert and let common sense be your guide. Advise children to be aware of moving equipment, machinery and animals. Many exhibits are “hands on” and we encourage participation, but it is always best to ask before you touch. Please remain

outside the pit area at the Tractor/Truck Pull track and watch for moving vehicles at all times.

Review the Schedule of Events

A schedule of activities is posted on the website. Although we try to include as much as possible, this schedule does not list every event. Review the schedule and plan your trip in accordance to those things you wish to see. Most activities are scheduled more than once a day and many are ongoing. The Information Booth will have updates on any schedule or location changes.

Plan Your Visit

A map of the grounds can be found on the website, as well. Four photographic maps are also located on the field — one each at the Information Booth, one as you enter the “pasture field”, one near the carnival area and one in the Heritage Village. These maps will allow you to place yourself in relation to other exhibits. Familiarize yourself with the grounds to save as many steps as possible. Trams make regular trips around the field. You may wish to catch one as soon as you arrive, take a circuit of the grounds and note our many exhibits. Select the ones you wish to revisit on foot. The tram makes regular stops around the grounds, You can get on or off at any of these stops. Note times for demonstrations and plan to visit the exhibits you like best early when they are not quite so crowded. Remember that the more crowded the grounds, the longer the tram trips.

Keep in mind, this is an outside event — rain or shine. There are some tents which provide shelter, but dress appropriately. It can be hot in September. Wear layers of clothing, bring a hat and wear comfortable shoes. No matter how much you intend to take the tram, you are probably going to have to do some walking, and this is a field. The ground is rough!

Also, please share your memories at Field Day on your social media.

Take Advantage of What We Know

Many of the volunteers manning the exhibits and demonstrations have first hand knowledge of the skills they are exhibiting. If you have questions, please ask. Our exhibitors will be glad to answer your questions.

Break Time

Field Day can be an overwhelming experience, particularly if this is your first visit. You cannot see everything in a few hours. Pace yourself and take into consideration the young and elderly in your party. In September, the weather can be variable — chilly in the morning and quite warm in the afternoon. Plan accordingly and set aside some “down time.”

All members of your party will need to take a break, take time to eat and just chill out, especially the youngest and elderly people with you. Take everyone’s comfort into consideration.

More than a dozen food vendors are located on the grounds offering a variety of foods. There are crowds at peak meal times, however, so schedule meals earlier or later to avoid lines. There are plenty of vendors selling

snow cones, lemonade and bottled water for a little “pick me up.”

Keep Track of Party Members

There are a lot of people on the grounds during the show, so be especially watchful of tiny tots. In the event you are separated from others in your group, have a plan. Make sure small children know their first and last names and the names of the people they are with. Consider pinning a contact phone number to your child. Volunteers need this information to help. If small children misplace their parents, please report it immediately to a staff member or the Information Booth.

As soon as you arrive, designate an obvious place to meet should you get separated. If members in your party go their separate ways, have a meeting time and place designated beforehand.

Restrooms are Available

S.B. Cox has provided portable toilets and hand washing stations which are scattered throughout the grounds. We have tried to place these in strategic places to accommodate your circuit through the field. Please let staff know if a portajohn needs tending.

Emergency Service

The Amelia Emergency Squad will have a presence on the grounds. Although we hope no one will need their services, there are times when cuts, splinters or the heat can get the best of us and it’s good to know volunteers are there to help. Report any medical needs to a staff member who can help you.

Amelia County Sheriff’s deputies will be on the grounds as well at times, and the Virginia State Police will maintain a presence at the event.

Tram Service

Trams are available and inside the grounds. Handicapped Parking is available as well. Handicapped scooters and wheelchairs are allowed on the grounds, but personal ATVS are not due to insurance regulations.

Contact with the Outside World

No public phones are available on the grounds, but most cell phone companies service the area. If you need to meet with someone during the day, make arrangements outside the gates. Also make sure you have all medications and other necessary items before you leave home.

Available Cash

The ticket booths accept CASH only. ATM machines will be located outside of the main gate.

Lost and Found

Any items found on the show grounds should be turned in at the Information Booth. If you lose something, check with these volunteers throughout the day. After the show, check with the Field Day office.

Souvenirs

The Souvenir Shop is located just inside the front gate. Be sure to visit there for a memento of your trip to Field Day of the Past.

Have a wonderful time and thanks for coming!