

Students look at some of the items in the American Legion Military Museum.



STUDENTS ENJOY FIELD TRIPS TO AMERICAN LEGION MUSEUM

Moira K. McGhee

news@reidnewspapers.com

The school field trip has a decades-long history in American public education. Students pile onto those big yellow buses to visit all types of cultural venues, including zoos, historical sites and a wide array of museums.

Students from Nichols Upper Elementary's

4th and 5th grade classes recently enjoyed a field trip to the American Legion Military Museum at 2129 Denver Harner Drive.

American Legion members put on an interactive presentation, which included a demonstration of how to properly fold an American flag. Legion members John Mayes

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and Mike Headlee precisely folded the flag while member Ron Horn provided a detailed explanation of what each of the 13 folds in the flag represented.

Kids were allowed to ask questions about the presentation or the American Legion in general before taking a tour of the museum. Many students seemed to be in awe of the fact that everyone at the American Legion was all Veterans. Students walked respectfully through the museum as Legion member Harvey Peacock, along with Mayes and Headlee, talked with the kids about the many items on display. The collection includes artifacts from the Civil War all the way through current conflicts and from each branch of the military.

The Wyandotte Boy Scouts were also scheduled to tour the museum, so field trips aren't just for schools. Any group of children can benefit from all types of outings. These trips can be especially important to less-advantaged children who might not otherwise get a chance to visit certain places and see and do so many fun and/or interesting things.

Students within specific programs in a school can also benefit from field trips that help them with their future endeavors. William Garrett Bergman, Agricultural Educator at Miami Public Schools and the Miami FFA Advisor, said students enrolled in an agricultural education program at MPS receive numerous opportunities to participate in field trips.

"These adventures include competing at career development events, participating in FFA leadership conferences and camps, attending conventions and touring ag related businesses," Bergman said. "I personally believe these opportunities



American Legion member John Mayes fields questions during a recent field trip by local students.

allow students to gain the knowledge and skills required for them to become successful in their future endeavors, whether that's within a career field or furthering their education."

While the educational opportunities of field trips are generally plentiful, it's also important for students of all ages to have some fun mixed into the events.

"I strongly encourage educators to mix educational opportunities with fun experiences," said Bergman. "For example, Miami FFA students received the opportunity to attend the National FFA Convention at Indianapolis, Indiana. This was an amazing experience in which FFA members gained the opportunity to meet students from across the United States, attend the career fair that had over 250 potential employers, listen to the keynote speaker during the convention general session explain the importance

of never giving up on your goals and visit the countless college booths

"In addition to this educational opportunity, students also received the opportunity to have some fun at Beasley's Orchard and the Indianapolis Zoo. I personally believe in order to be a superior educator you must also be a great entertainer. The key to reducing misbehavior and increasing the students IQ is by making learning fun."

Students within the agriculture education programs at MPS have the opportunity to attend approximately 25 trips. Bergman said students also participate in college tours, which can help them decide where they might want to pursue their higher education.

To schedule a tour of the American Legion Military Museum for your students or other groups of kids, contact Mike at 918-542-1132, Glenn at 918-542-3255 or Martha at 972-768-9189.