

Kindergarten Tour Scope



Watkinsville, originally the village of “Big Springs” ca. 1791, served as the county seat of Clarke County until 1871 when Athens became the county seat. In 1875 Oconee County was established, and Watkinsville became its county seat. Eagle Tavern is one of the earliest surviving structures in Oconee County. Eagle Tavern was built circa 1801 when Watkinsville was a frontier town on the edge of Creek Indian Territories. It served as a local meeting place, a resting place for weary stage coach travelers, a mercantile, and, later, a boarding house. In 1806, the first courthouse was built across the street from Eagle Tavern, and the city of Watkinsville was incorporated. Today students can explore their local history and government through tours of Eagle Tavern and the circa 1939 Courthouse including the Board of Commissioners, a courtroom, judge’s chambers, and the Old Jail. The Oconee County Welcome Center staff and volunteers will work with you to coordinate tours and plan a picnic lunch with a visit from one of our local leaders.

Kindergarten students touring Eagle Tavern will discuss the excitement of life on the Georgia frontier in the early 1800’s including the country’s newly won independence and the naming of Eagle Tavern after our young country’s national symbol. At the tavern, students will examine items for sale in the mercantile, and explore answers to the question of why household goods could not easily be purchased and possible solutions to the problem, such as hand making most items and purchasing only special items. Students will compare similarities and differences in the work that people do today and did historically through examples at the Courthouse and Eagle Tavern. Through tours of the Courthouse including the Board of Commissioners, a courtroom, judge’s chambers, and the Old Jail, students will explore how and why rules are made and identify problems and solutions when rules are broken.

Georgia Social Studies Standards Met: SSKH2 a&b, SSKCG1 a&b, SSKE1, and SSKE4

Information Processing Skills: compare similarities and differences, and identify issues and/or problems and alternative solutions

