

2024 TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

NY Power Authority & Niagara Power Vista - (50 spots)

The Niagara Power Vista is an exciting, interactive adventure from the New York Power Authority. You will understand electricity through the eyes of pioneers like Nikolai Tesla and Thomas Edison as well as modern-day scientists. Experience what it was like to build one of the largest hydro plants and then see how it provides power to the world's largest machine – the U.S. electrical grid. Virtually explore the power plant's generating equipment through Exterior views, 3D animations and video. Experience the "Power Up" 4-D simulator, a high-tech virtual ride that takes you plummeting from the sky and into the Niagara River; shooting through the penstocks and swirling around a spinning turbine; then zipping at high speeds along high-tension power lines across the landscapes of New York State. From seat-gripping virtual reality to hands-on experiments to the power of nature, the Power Player experience at the Niagara Power Vista is a must see!

H.H. Dobbins, Inc. - (50 spots)

Established in 1930, H. H. Dobbins, Inc. is one of the leading companies specializing in the distribution of farm produce in the United States. Based in Lyndonville, N.Y., the 4th generation company owns 350 acres of apple orchards as well as a packing warehouse facility purchased in 2003. The company's state-of-the-art computerized packing equipment allows for flexibility to make an order according to the customer's packing specifications. See how apples are washed, waxed, dried, and sized. Each apple is photographed, and a spectrometer checks the inside for quality before it is packaged. The Niagara Frontier is a major apple producing region in New York, and this tour will open your eyes to the sophisticated technology used to ensure premium apple quality.

*** Close-toed shoes are required, and visitor questionnaire must be completed prior to tour.

Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc. – (50 spots)

Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc. is an American dairy cooperative located in Buffalo, New York. Products provided by the cooperative include milk, cream, butter, yogurt, half and half, juices, eggnog, cottage cheese, sour cream, ice cream mix and chip dips. Upstate Niagara Cooperative is owned by farmers throughout Western New York State. With over 300 family-owned and operated farms Upstate Niagara Cooperative is one of the largest and most stable dairy cooperatives in the United States. The West Seneca cultured products plant processes yogurt, Greek yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, and sour cream-based dip. Tour the processing facility, get involved in a hands-on activity, and learn about career opportunities in the dairy processing industry.

*** Pants are required and sturdy closed-toed shoes. Visitor GMP Guidelines gives detailed information for visitors and must be completed prior to the tour.

2024 TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Buffalo Raceway/Harness Racing - (50 spots)

The Buffalo Raceway opened its doors in 1942 and selected the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg as its home. The Fairgrounds already had a half mile racetrack and grandstand in place for its fair activities and, being only 14 miles from downtown Buffalo, provided an excellent location. Several improvements have been made over its 80 year history, including new barns, updated clubhouse and backstretch improvements, and state-of-the-art video equipment to display simulcast tracks in HD throughout the facility. An estimated thirty thousand horses have competed here along with over four thousand trainers and drivers. Backstretch personnel such as grooms, blacksmiths, veterinarians, feed men, harness shop owners, and track crews make their living at the Buffalo Raceway. Tour the raceway, meet some of the personnel behind the scenes, and enjoy a race!

Silo City - (50 spots)

Est Buffalo's trade in grain began in 1827. The opening of the Erie Canal meant that grain shipments headed to the east coast could be transported by water from Lake Erie to the Erie Canal through the port of Buffalo. Grain was unloaded from the large shipping vessels and transferred to canal boats. The massive concrete silos and grain elevators revolutionized the grain shipping industry. Today, Silo City is a grand collection of concrete silos and grain elevators of the past. On this walking tour you will learn about the grain trade in Buffalo during the early 20th century and the development of the grain elevator. You will also learn that flour milling still exists in Buffalo, and General Mills has been producing one of the world's most popular breakfast cereals in Buffalo since 1941, Cheerios!

***Comfortable closed-toed walking shoes. Dress for outdoor weather conditions. Waiver must be completed prior to the tour.



2024 TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY MORNING

Niagara Falls Culinary Institute - (50 spots)

The Niagara Falls Culinary Institute (NFCI) gives students the tools for a successful career in the food industry. From experienced faculty, a state-of-the-art facility, on-site restaurant, and bakery/café, NFCI is a student's next step in the culinary world. Students gain real-world experience in the food service industry, from culinary arts, to baking and pastry arts, and food safety and sanitation. The Niagara Falls Culinary Institute (NFCI) is a unique program training students in all aspects of culinary skills and hospitality management. NFCI is a division of SUNY Niagara.

Hoover's Dairy - (50 spots)

The Niagara Falls Culinary Institute (NFCI) gives students the tools for a successful career in the food industry. From experienced faculty, a state-of-the-art facility, on-site restaurant, and bakery/café, NFCI is a student's next step in the culinary world. Students gain real-world experience in the food service industry, from culinary arts, to baking and pastry arts, and food safety and sanitation. The Niagara Falls Culinary Institute (NFCI) is a unique program training students in all aspects of culinary skills and hospitality management. NFCI is a division of SUNY Niagara.

Canisius University – Animal Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation - (50 spots)

Canisius University is a private four-year university in Buffalo, New York founded in 1870. The university serves roughly 2,600 students and boasts an outstanding Animal Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation program. Discovering why animals behave the way they do makes the study of animal behavior an exciting field. Students study migration patterns, habitat use, and other animal behaviors that affect animal/human interaction. After completion of the program, students find a variety of jobs, from working with companion animals, to zoo animals or wildlife. Students work with professionals at places like local zoos, aquariums, and wildlife refuges as part of their training. Tour the campus and get a close-up look at a nationally recognized program focused on animal behavior, animal welfare, and conservation education.



2024 TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY MORNING (CONT)

SUNY Niagara – Animal Management - A.A.S. (50 spots)

The SUNY Niagara Animal Management degree program is primarily a zookeeper and aquarist training program, allowing graduates to work in public zoos and aquariums, but also offers students the ability to work in other non-zoo settings such as shelters, sanctuaries, and even veterinary offices as veterinary assistants. Degree program coursework is heavily biased towards biology and is coupled with weekly internship experience at one of several local animal facilities, with the Buffalo Zoo and Aquarium of Niagara serving as the primary internship sites. Upon completion of the degree program, students are awarded their Associate of Applied Science degree, and can immediately obtain employment in the field, or they can further their education through the program's 2+2 articulation with Canisius University in Buffalo, NY, where they can earn their bachelor's degree in biology with specializations in animal behavior, conservation, ecology or zoo biology.

Lakeside Sod Supply Co., Inc. - (50 spots)

Lakeside Sod Supply Co., Inc. began in 1966 as a small sod farm and has become upstate New York's most reliable resource for both business and home consumers. The company has flourished over the past 50 years, adding many new products. Offering grass seed, professional turf fertilizers, sports field infield mixes, and other turf related products, Lakeside Sod provides the highest quality of service to its customers. Recently, Lakeside Sod provided the sod for Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, NY, the site of the 2023 PGA Championship. This tour will give you the opportunity to see how sod is cut and rolled and show you another agricultural career opportunity.



2024 TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Lactalis American Group - (20 spots)

Lactalis Group is a third-generation family-owned business founded in France by André Besnier in 1933. Lactalis Group landed in the U.S. in the early 1980s when they opened an import-export office in New York City. Soon after, the company acquired a manufacturing facility in Wisconsin, the first Lactalis plant to manufacture and distribute brie for the American market. In 1992, Lactalis American Group established its U.S. headquarters in Western New York when they acquired Sorrento Cheese in Buffalo, the largest manufacturer of ricotta in the country. Lactalis now owns additional plants in Idaho and Wisconsin where Italian cheeses and award-winning cheese spreads are produced. Lactalis American Group employs over 1600 people across its U.S. cheese production sites and corporate offices. Tour the facility and learn more about the many cheeses produced in Buffalo.

NY Power Authority – Niagara Power - (50 spots)

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Amos Zither & Sons, Inc. Farm- (50 spots)

The Zittel family has been growing vegetables in Eden Valley for over 120 years! Five generations of the Zittel family have grown the business to what it is today, consisting of two businesses: fresh market vegetable production and greenhouse production. The farm currently produces fresh market vegetables on more than 300 acres, selling 95% of their produce through the Eden Valley Growers Co-op, a vegetable farm cooperative that began in 1956. The greenhouse operation includes 3 ½ acres under one roof, growing geraniums, ivy, fuchsia, and spring vegetable plants. The farm uses the most innovative cultural practices including trickle irrigation, plastic mulches, and integrated pest management to maximize quality and production and minimize pesticide usage and conserve water. Tour the farm and learn more about vegetable production and marketing through one of the strongest cooperatives in New York!

2024 TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY AFTERNOON (CONT)

Crag Burn Golf Club - (50 spots)

In 1929, Frank H. Goodyear, Jr., a prominent Buffalonian and his wife, Dorothy Knox, began construction on a summer estate called Crag Burn. An elaborate English style house with more than 60 rooms was built and across the road, 190 acres of grounds included magnificent stables, service buildings, polo fields, and bridle paths. By the late 1960s, the horses had been sold, and the polo fields, bridle paths, and pastures had begun to return to nature. The property was then turned into a premier, private 190-acre golf course. Learn more about golf course management from Crag Burn's Director of Grounds. From mowing to maintaining pristine greens, the demand is high for quality employees on the golf course!

Phillips Farm - Dairy and Beef Operation - (50 spots)

The dairy industry is the largest single segment of New York's agricultural industry, and dairy farms of all sizes can be found throughout Western New York. Phillips Farm, owned and operated by David Phillips and his wife, Anne, is one of Erie County's largest dairies. The family farms 2000 acres and milks 1500 cows in the North Collins community. Several family members have earned degrees in agriculture and contribute to the success of their business on a part-time or full-time basis. In addition to their dairy operation, the family raises beef cattle and markets their animals locally to Moriarty Meats, a downtown Whole Animal Butchery specializing in traditional French butchery. Visit a dairy/beef farm to learn more about the dairy industry in WNY and the unique beef production and marketing done at the local level.

Kelkenberg Farm - Agritourism - (50 spots)

Kelkenberg Farm of Clarence, a family operated farm offering fun farm visits, educational farm tours, and large group events, is an example of agritourism in western New York. Charles and Faith Kelkenberg purchased the farm in 1966 to give their children the farm experience they both enjoyed growing up. What began as hayrides for family and friends has now become one of the premier agricultural experiences for the greater Buffalo community. No stranger to agricultural education and FFA, Charlene Kelkenberg Spoth left her teaching job, returned to the farm, and began expanding the educational tours on the farm in 1992. What started as a hobby has grown into a dynamic full-time business! Enjoy an afternoon exploring the agritourism possibilities in a suburban neighborhood and learn how to promote agriculture through hands-on experiences



2024 DAY OF SERVICE PROJECTS

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Erie County Fairgrounds - (10 spots)

With over 266 acres, the Erie County Fairgrounds is home to the Erie County Fair for 12 days in August! They also welcome many other events throughout the year and host regular agriculture literacy lessons for local elementary children. Help them prepare for the Spring season with various tasks such as painting, spring clean-up, garden planting, etc. ***closed toed shoes and weather appropriate clothing required

Olmstead Parks - (35 spots)

Frederick Law Olmsted believed the purpose of green space was to “refresh and delight the eye and through the eye, mind and spirit.” Upon touring the City of Buffalo in 1868, he convinced the city’s leaders that not one park – as in New York City’s Central Park – but multiple parks would better serve Buffalo’s needs. This group will assist the Olmstead Park Conservancy prepare the parks for the influx of spring visitors. ***closed toed shoes, long pants and weather appropriate clothing required

Tift Nature Preserve - (35 spots)

Just a five-minute drive from downtown Buffalo and situated on the Outer Harbor, Tift Nature Preserve offers 264 acres of restored habitat with five miles of trails and boardwalks. This group will assist with various habitat restoration projects and trail maintenance. ***closed toed shoes and weather appropriate clothing required

FRIDAY MORNING

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Erie County Parks - (45 spots)

The Erie County Parks system is considered one of the finest in the state. The Erie County Department of Parks implements many conservation and sustainability initiatives and practices throughout the entire park system. We are excited to partner with the Parks Department to leave Buffalo better than we found it! ***closed toed shoes, long pants and weather appropriate clothing required

Providence Farm Collective - (25 spots)

Providence Farm Collective is a non-profit grassroots organization that was founded in 2019 with a mission of cultivating farmer-led and community-rooted agriculture and food systems to actualize the rights of under-resourced peoples and a vision of empowering just and equitable access to food and farmland. NY FFA is excited to partner with PFC to help them start their demonstration garden plots! ***closed toed shoes and weather appropriate clothing required

2024 DAY OF SERVICE PROJECTS (CONT)

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Olmstead Parks - (30 spots)

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