



Vesterheim Facts

- **MISSION STATEMENT**—Vesterheim embodies the living heritage of Norwegian immigrants to America. Sharing this cultural legacy can inspire people of all backgrounds to celebrate tradition.
- **HOURS AND DAYS OPEN**—May 1 through October 31, open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and until 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays. November 1 through April 30, open Tuesday through Sunday (closed Monday) from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and open until 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Closed New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.
- **ADMISSION FEES**—Adults: \$10, Children ages 7-18: \$5, and Seniors 65+: \$8. Free on Thursdays. Group rates are available.
- **COLLECTION** —24,000 artifacts; 11,000 books; 14,000 archival photographs and documents; 1,750 Audio Visual materials; and over 17,000 slides.
- **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**—Vesterheim offers classes in traditional folk art and culture, with more than 300 participants annually. Over 2,600 college and school children visit Vesterheim each year as part of their curriculum. Local school-age children participate in the Pioneer Immersion Program and the Window on the World (WOW) Farm Program, engaging in a variety of object-based, hands-on activities. Local preschool-age children have the opportunity to participate in Barnetimen (Children's Hour).
- **ANNUAL EVENTS**—*Syttende Mai* (Norwegian Constitution Day) on May 17; Nordic Fest the last full weekend in July; and Norwegian Christmas the first weekend in December.
- **OUTREACH**—Staff assistance to about 300 people annually who request help on the identification and care of artifacts; frequent public appearances by staff; Vesterheim magazine, books, and other educational materials.
- **GOVERNANCE**—Board of Trustees, 27 members from around the country.
- **STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**—24 staff members; over 400 volunteers (guides, office assistants, etc.) contributing over 4,000 hours of service per year.
- **FINANCIAL**—Operates on an annual budget of approximately \$1,900,000 per fiscal year and has an endowment of approximately \$4,000,000. Assets, exclusive of collections, total about \$8,586,000.
- **VISITATION**—Averages 13,000 visitors per year from 50 states and 35 foreign countries; 70% are from more than 60 miles outside Decorah; almost half are of non-Scandinavian backgrounds.
- **MEMBERSHIP**—About 6,000 from all 50 states and 35 foreign countries. The full-color magazine Vesterheim is sent to all members twice a year; the Rosemaling Letter is sent to approximately 1,000 members three times a year.
- **PHYSICAL PLANT**—Seventeen buildings on a one-acre site; a collections study center housing 9,000 artifacts; 10-acre farmstead with 8 structures; and a historic church and cemetery on 1.3 acres.
- **ACCREDITATION**—Accredited by American Association of Museums; honorary member Association of Norwegian Museums of Art and Culture.
- **ECONOMIC IMPACT**—Over \$5 million to the Decorah area.