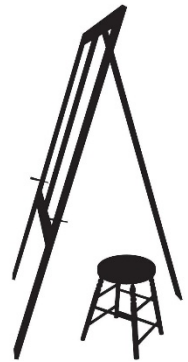


# THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Thomas Cole National Historic Site Launches a New Way to Visit with Outdoor Explore Kits and Timed Pick-Ups**

#### **Outdoor Explore Kits are Free for Local Schoolchildren and their Families as Part of the Site's Diversity, Equity and Access Initiative**

Catskill, NY – July 6, 2020 – The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is now offering a new and innovative way to visit the historic site located in the Village of Catskill. Visitors can pick up a packet of information and supplies to enjoy a self-guided hour-long visit to the historic grounds and building exteriors. With the new Outdoor Explore Kits, visitors can step up onto the porch to sketch Cole's favorite view with a new custom sketchbook and pencil, learn about the gardens and historic interiors in the printed Explore Guide, read Cole's "Essay on American Scenery" on the bench under the historic Honey Locust tree, find maps to other nearby adventures, and more.

Outdoor Explore Kits come in "Basic" (\$12) and "Family" (\$14), and pick-ups are available every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings. Reservations must be made in advance to pick up during a specific time slot. All pick-ups are outdoors and contact-less. They take place outside of Thomas Cole's 1839 studio building on the historic campus. Outdoor Explore Kits include: an Explore at Your Own Pace Guide Book, an Outdoor Explore Welcome Card with recommended itinerary; Thomas Cole's "Essay on American Scenery" Book, Cole Site Custom Sketchbook and Cedar Pencil; View on the Catskill Postcard; Take Action Cards; Walking Directions to a nearby public park with a creek that Cole frequently painted; Mini Hand Sanitizer; Thomas Cole Site & Art Trail Brochures; Changing Landscape Activity Book (Family Kit exclusive) and Box of Crayons (Family Kit exclusive). Kit reservations are available at [thomascole.org/outdoorexplora](https://thomascole.org/outdoorexplora). Members receive a 15% discount on all Kits and priority access to reserve the first morning time slot for pick-up. Visitors can become members at [thomascole.org/membership](https://thomascole.org/membership).

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is offering its Outdoor Explore Kits for free for schoolchildren and their families within the Greene and Columbia County public school systems. Please email [education@thomascole.org](mailto:education@thomascole.org) anytime or call 518-291-9525 Wednesday through Friday to arrange a free kit pick-up.

This education initiative builds on years of free educational programming that the Thomas Cole Site hosts for local schoolchildren, both at the historic site and in classrooms when it is safe to do so. The organization designed its educational programs to meet teacher needs by using American art to teach American history curriculum themes and ensure that art has a place in the classroom. Additionally, the organization created free digital lesson plans and activities for remote learning that are available at

[thomascole.org/teacherresources](https://thomascole.org/teacherresources). Even more educational content for audiences of all ages is available at [thomascole.org/events](https://thomascole.org/events).

The Thomas Cole Historic Site programming and operations are continually evolving under its initiatives for Diversity, Equity and Access and Greening. Offering the Outdoor Explore Kits to local schoolchildren for free furthers its mission to engage broad audiences through innovative educational programs that are relevant today.

### **The Thomas Cole National Historic Site**

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is an international destination presenting the original home and studios of Thomas Cole, the founder of the Hudson River School of painting, the nation's first major art movement. Located in the Hudson Valley, the site includes the 1815 Main House; Cole's 1839 Old Studio; the recently reconstructed New Studio building; and panoramic views of the Catskill Mountains. It is a National Historic Landmark and an affiliated area of the National Park System. The Thomas Cole Site's activities include guided and self-guided tours, special exhibitions of both 19th-century and contemporary art, printed publications, lectures, extensive online programs, activities for school groups, the Cole Fellowship program, free community events, and innovative public programs such as the Hudson River School Art Trail—a map and website that enable people to visit the places in nature that Cole painted – and the Hudson River Skywalk – a new walkway connecting the Thomas Cole Site with Frederic Church's Olana over the Hudson River. The goal of all programs at the Thomas Cole Site is to enable visitors to find meaning and inspiration in Thomas Cole's life and work. The themes that Cole explored in his art and writings—such as landscape preservation and our conception of nature as a restorative power—are both historic and timely, providing the opportunity to connect to audiences with insights that are highly relevant to their own lives.

Visit [thomascole.org/events](https://thomascole.org/events) for information on Outdoor Explore Kits and other outdoor experiences as well as digital content that you can enjoy now. Keep in touch on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at [@thomascolesite](https://www.instagram.com/thomascolesite).