



DAH Guidelines for Museum Hours of Operation

The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Since 1975, the Department of Arkansas Heritage (DAH) has been charged with discovering, strengthening, protecting and preserving Arkansas's natural and cultural heritage. To fulfill its mission, the department houses the following natural and cultural heritage resource divisions:

DAH Museums: Museums research, preserve, present and interpret historic structures, objects and natural and cultural assets. They serve as a partner in education with public and private schools throughout Arkansas. The department's four museums are the **Delta Cultural Center**, **Historic Arkansas Museum**, **Mosaic Templars Cultural Center** and **Old State House Museum**.

DAH Resource Divisions: The **Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission** identifies, protects and promotes areas that best exemplify Arkansas's rich heritage of biological diversity. These areas might be habitat for rare or disappearing species, or natural communities such as a tallgrass prairie or a river and its dependent aquatic system. The **Arkansas Arts Council** and the **Arkansas Historic Preservation Program** are conduits for federal and state grant money, and they provide technical assistance for developing and conserving Arkansas's cultural resources. They preserve and promote Arkansas's cultural resources including Arkansas's fine and traditional arts and historic structures, landscapes and archeological sites. The Jacob Wolf House Heritage Site is part of this division. The **Arkansas State Archives** collect and preserve the official records and historical materials for the state of Arkansas. These include state, county, and federal records, manuscript materials, newspapers, military records, family histories, an extensive Arkansas history and genealogy library, and a collection of Arkansas art and artifacts.

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The purpose of this rule is to establish guidelines for consistent hours of operation for all of the Department of Arkansas Heritage's (DAH) Museums. DAH seeks to have its museums accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). AAM accreditation is a standards-based assessment and recognition program designed to help museums carry out its public trust, collections stewardship, and educational roles. AAM accreditation recognizes a museum's commitment to meeting standards and professional practices.

DAH museums and their exhibits should be available to the public during reasonable hours and for regular periods with appropriate standards to ensure the health, safety, and accessibility of its visitors and personnel. These guidelines set forth the *minimum* days/times that DAH's AAM accredited museums and their exhibits will be open to the public: Tuesday – Friday 10am to 4:30pm and extended weekday and weekend hours at the discretion of the DAH Director. All sites may be closed on state holidays. DAH non-accredited museums and heritage sites will be open to the public during the hours designated by the DAH Director. Museum administrative offices will operate during regular state government business hours.