

## OFPA 2018 General Court Advance Information

The Michigan Society of OFPA is pleased to host you for the 2018 General Court in Dearborn, MI. Our headquarters will be the historic Dearborn Inn, now a Marriott Hotel. Henry Ford commissioned prominent architect Albert Kahn to design the Dearborn Inn in 1931 as one of the country's first airport hotels. Ford was building its Tri-motor airplanes at the time and operated its own airport. The Dearborn Inn was built to provide food and accommodations for arriving visitors. The Georgian style building is now on the National Register of Historic Places.



### Thursday Advance Tours

Our Thursday Advance Tour will include the morning spent at the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation. This fabulous museum chronicles the industrial revolution in America and key historic events.

Key attractions include:

- **Presidential Vehicles** -- See some of the vehicles that transported 20th century American presidents, including Kennedy (Dallas limo), Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower and Reagan.
- **With Liberty and Justice for All** -- Explore the evolution of American freedom, from a 1776 copy of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* to an engraved copy of the Declaration of Independence



commissioned by John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln's Ford Theatre chair and the Rosa Parks bus.

- **Driving America** -- Tells the story of how automotive innovations have changed our lives and influenced American culture. Includes historically significant cars and automobilia.
  - **Heroes of the Sky** -- Be inspired by the stories behind the first 40 years of aviation history. Significant airplanes include a Ford Tri-motor, Sikorsky VS-300A helicopter piloted to the museum by Igor Sikorsky and a 1939 DC-3 airliner.
  - **Agriculture: Innovations in Farming** -- Features tools and machinery that farmers used to grow crops, raise livestock, process eggs and dairy products, and generate power for farm use.
  - **Dymaxion House** -- Tour Buckminster Fuller's environmentally efficient, circular aluminum dwelling. A fascinating design ahead of its time.
- Railroads** – Features street cars and trains including one of the largest steam engines ever built, the 385 ton Allegheny locomotive.
- **Fully Furnished** -- Explore examples of American furniture dating from 1670 to the present, including Mark Twain's writing table and Edgar Allen Poe's portable desk.
  - **Made in America** – Explore important manufacturing and power generation technologies.

After lunch on Thursday we will tour Ford's historic River Rouge Assembly Plant. The Rouge Complex first assembled anti-submarine Eagle boats during WWI. Later products included the Ford Model A, Thunderbird, Mustang and now the F-150 pickup truck. You will discover the Rouge Complex's long history of innovation, from Henry Ford's pioneering vision of vertical integration to today's sustainable manufacturing. The tour includes a special effects theater which covers vehicle manufacturing and testing, and then a walking tour of the assembly line from an overhead observation deck.



## Saturday Afternoon Tour

Imagine touring Thomas Edison's original laboratory and the Wright brothers' bicycle shop, taking a ride in a Ford Model T and on a steam engine train. You will do all of this and much more on our Saturday afternoon tour of Greenfield Village -- an 80-acre place where 300 years of American stories come to life. Key attractions include:

- Thomas Edison's laboratory complex from Menlo Park, NJ, including the machine shop, glass house, boarding house and other buildings
- The Wright Brothers' house and bicycle shop from Dayton Ohio
- Noah Webster's house from New Haven CT, built 1823
- Henry Ford's original home and the shed where he built his first car
- An English Cotswold Cottage built in 1619
- The Firestone family farmhouse which continues as a working 1800's style farm
- An operating 1884 railroad roundhouse with engine turntable
- Ancient shops and mills with skilled artisans demonstrating centuries-old techniques for glass blowing, weaving, pottery, and more



Step Back in Time  
at Greenfield Village

## Friday Ladies Tour

While the General Court is in session on Friday, we have some special events lined up for the ladies. We will travel to Detroit's beautiful Belle Isle Park in the Detroit River and visit the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. You can learn how the Great Lakes provide transportation routes for shipping goods and people, and the roles the Great Lakes played in the War of 1812 and World War II.



Afterward we will visit the famous Pewabic Pottery studio which has been producing ceramics in Detroit for over a century.

