

Clinton Visitor Center

The Clinton Visitor Center strives daily to make a great first impression of our community to the many visitors who travel on the Natchez Trace Parkway and the Interstate 20 corridor. Our mission is to provide travelers and Clintonians with the best hospitality possible, a state-of-the-art facility, guest services, what to see in Clinton, and an invitation to attend a variety of events throughout the year.

Every year, the center draws visitors from across the United States and the world. In 2019 we recorded 13,173 visitors and, of that number, 396 were international visitors. The majority of our international visitors hail from places such as Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Australia, and the United Kingdom.

Our guest services make us a favorite visitor center for travelers to enjoy. The unique facility offers a gift shop, museum, and WIFI. The landscaped grounds are ideal for walking, taking photographs, enjoying the picnic area and the dog walk area. We have clean, accessible restrooms. We sell cold drinks, water, snacks, and postage stamps for postcards that we can mail for you. A team of volunteers extend the hospitality. You can hear local musicians on the weekends, and attend quality events throughout the year. The Little Free Library is a free book offering for the reader at heart.

If visitors indicate they will be in the area for a while, rather than just passing through, we encourage them to take advantage of our nice hotels, restaurants and novel eateries, Olde Towne District shops and galleries and special tours and events that are available. We provide them with the necessary information for doing so and will even make reservations for them. We also provide visitors traveling the Natchez Trace Parkway with map and brochures of the trace, share interesting information regarding it, and answer any questions they may have. We make them aware of good books we sell on the history of the trace, as well as souvenirs of the trace.

A Christmas open house was held this year, and we want to express thank you to the many Clintonians who came to the center to look for that unique gift for someone on their Christmas list. Year around, the gift shop showcases the work of local artisans with products ranging from art prints, jewelry, woodwork, ornaments, books, ceramics, civil war collectibles, Natchez Trace memorabilia, and delicious Mississippi specialty food products.

A favorite community pastime is the well-attended weekend music scene with toe-tapping jam sessions featuring local musicians on Saturdays and Sundays with many genres of music. Weekend music is held on every Saturday morning, except the third Saturday, from 9:30am until 12:00pm and music every Sunday from 1:30pm until 4:00pm. "Friday Nights at Milepost 89" showcases musicians and songwriters and offers a chance for attendees to hear musicians talk about their songs. In 2019, we recorded 505 in attendance for Friday Nights at Milepost 89. The new 2020 season is from March-October and this will be our seventh season.

The visitor center is a Clinton landmark to be experienced by visitors and Clintonians. Quality special events are conducted for the entire family each year and new artifacts are displayed in the museum room. Also, we are honored to have on our grounds Dr. Samuel Marshall Gore's masterpiece "Fallen Comrade" that salutes America's military veterans. Gore's rendering depicts two longtime Clinton friends, Marine Joe Albritton carrying the body of fellow Marine Homer Ainsworth from the battlefield during the Korean War. An addition to the museum room is a permanent collection entitled "The Evolution of the Trace" by local artist Lucky Osborne. Osborne's work is small dioramas, depicting the beginnings of the early trace to the Natchez Trace Parkway today.

The Veterans Banner Program created for the community to recognize and honor all Clinton Veterans has grown to have seventy-four Clinton Veterans proudly shown on banners within the city, on patriotic holidays. The Veterans Banner order form can be picked up at the Clinton Visitor Center or downloaded at www.clintonms.org/veterantributebanner. An annual Veterans Day Tribute is held the Sunday prior to Veterans Day at the visitor center. The Walter Leake Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution contributes light refreshments.

The “Walk of Honorees” located on the Quisenberry Library Trail honors twenty-six individuals who were chosen for their achievement of excellence in their field at the local, state, or national level. Many have received prestigious awards. These individuals either grew up in Clinton or spent time in Clinton during their span of their achievement of excellence in their area of expertise. A bronze plaque describing each honorees’ story can be read as you walk the trail. The honorees for 2018 are: Nevada Barr, Lance Bass, Terri Blackstock, Jeff Brantley, Jimmy Byrd, Keith Carlock, Ted DiBiase, Sr., Ted DiBiase, Jr., Dr. Samuel Marshall Gore, Barry Hannah, Larry Myricks, James Sclater, and Wyatt Waters. The honorees for 2019 are: Baylus Richard Albritton, Jr., Mark Childress, Meredith Edwards Collins, Eddie Cotton, Jr., Shelly Fairchild, Dr. Archie Germany, Jaret Holmes, Doug Hutton, Daniel Curtis Lee, Nathaniel Lee, Jr., Plautus Iberus Lipsey, Jr., Scott Savage, Jarekus Singleton, and Robin Whitfield. The committee will select additional individuals each year.

We invite everyone to stop by to shop, browse, or just enjoy a cup of coffee with us. The center is open seven days a week, Monday through Saturday from 9am until 5pm and on Sunday afternoon from 1-5pm. Hours may vary on holidays. You may visit www.clintonms.org to view the calendar of events.