Welcome to History Adventures! Today we're going to explore the topic of kids in history. Kids like you have been an important part of the history Los Alamos and have even changed the way our town looks today.

You can do these activities in any order! Think about the two questions below and read the information on the next page before you get started.

When I think of kids in history, I think:

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I want to know more about:

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The Los Alamos Ranch School opened in 1917. More than 550 students attended the school and its summer camp before it closed in 1943. The school was bought and forced to close when the U.S. government took over Los Alamos for the secret Manhattan Project.

A Boarding School
Only boys were allowed to attend the Ranch School, and most of their teachers were men. The students were teenagers, mostly from outside of New Mexico. Students and teachers lived at this boarding school during the school year.

Learning Outside
Students exercised outside before breakfast, then studied in classes during the morning. They spent every afternoon outside: playing sports, riding horses, going hunting, and more. Some trails that students made are still here today! Every student was a Boy Scout and had his own horse he was responsible for.
To explore stories about kids in history, let's go outside and explore Ashley Pond. The Los Alamos Ranch School improved the pond—and named it after the founder of the school, Ashley Pond Jr.! The water in the pond gave the students a place to swim, boat, and ice skate.

**Walk around Ashley Pond and compare how it looks today to how it looks in the photo below.**

Think about:

- Compare the photo to what you see today. What is different? What stayed the same? Pay attention to details!
- If you had to take care of a horse like students at the Ranch School, what would you be responsible for?
- Would you like or dislike going to a school with lots of sports and outdoor activities?

**Connections across time:**

This is how Ashley Pond looked when the Los Alamos Ranch School was here. (Photo by T. Harmon Parkhurst. Parkhurst Collection, Los Alamos Historical Society Photo Archives.)
The teachers at the Los Alamos Ranch School created their own kind of school, where students learned inside the classroom and outside in nature. Let's make plans for our own kind of school!

Think about the **most important** things students should learn at your school. These might be usual school subjects, new skills or activities, or ways to practice working together. List these things here:

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________________________________________________________________________

Now, think about how students at your school will **learn** those important things. Who will teach them? Where will students learn? What would look the same, or different, compared to where you learn? **Talk about your ideas** with someone and record some of your brainstorming here:

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**Bonus activities!**

Practice one of those important skills with someone else!

— or —

Make a model of your school from a cereal box, glue, paper, and crayons following these directions from Bella Dia: https://belladia.typepad.com/bella_dia/2009/12/cereal-box-house-tutorial.html
PHOTO CHALLENGE

Kids are an important part of history. Sometimes it can be hard for historians to research what kids' lives were like in the past because there might not be a lot recorded in books and archives. You can help with this problem! Anything you share with the Los Alamos Historical Society Archives can help historians in the future learn about what life was like for kids today.

• Take a photo that documents what your life is like today. How would you show someone what it's like to be you with a photo?

If you'd like your photo to be saved in the Los Alamos Historical Society Archives, email it to educator@losalamoshistory.org. Only share your photo if you are okay with giving ownership of the photo to the Los Alamos Historical Society.

Think about these questions and share your answers if you email us your photo:

• When was the photo taken?
• What is the photo of? Who is in the photo?
• Who took the photo?
• How does this photo show what your life is like today?

If you want to share your photo online, tag us! @LosAlamosHistory
Reflect on your adventures in local history by writing down your answers or talking about ideas.

I learned this about kids in history:

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What has stayed the same or changed over time?

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How are the past and the present connected?

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Thanks for exploring History Adventures from the Los Alamos History Museum!
www.LosAlamosHistory.org