



2026 Alabama History Institutes: Grades K-6

Historical Orienteering: Using Location to Learn About the Past

Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities, Auburn
June 9-11, 2026

Meagan McDonald, Homeschool Educator and Education Coordinator, Oakville Indian Mounds Park and Museum
Todd McDonald, Decatur City Schools

Orienteering is the sport of navigation using highly detailed maps, and during this three-day workshop, you will use it as a metaphor for exploring Alabama history. You will learn how to incorporate primary sources, mapmaking, and map reading skills that will help foster students' relationships with their surroundings by connecting the past to the present. Visits to local sites highlighting key turning points in Alabama history, including those associated with the Creek War, Civil War, and Civil Rights eras, will demonstrate how place-based learning uses the local community to teach concepts across the curriculum.

You will leave this workshop with activities and resources aligned to the 2024 Social Studies Course of Study Standards. Please bring a personal, operable device, such as a laptop or Chromebook, as you will be required to use it for full participation.

Questions?

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