

**Meeting Group Experiences**

**Berry Farm**

Just outside of Richwood along U.S. Route 4, sits The Berry Farm, owned by the Converse family. Berries have been their passion for going back generations. They are open seasonally from May through September. The Berry Farm offers U-pick experiences brimming with strawberry and blackberry treats, including fresh berries, pies, jams, and more! It's the perfect summer retreat to for a fun day of berry picking.

**Option #1- Let’s Learn about Strawberries**

Discover the pleasure of picking your own strawberries, ripe and bursting with flavor, straight from the vine. Learn about the different varieties of strawberries we use and the best techniques for growing and picking them to ensure they remain fresh and delicious. You will go home with one of our homemade strawberry jams.

**Cost:** $12

**Length:**

**Season:** Available Late May – Early June

**Option #2- Let’s Learn about Blackberries**

Venture into our 3-acre blackberry patch, where the bushes are laden with plump, juicy berries. Learn about the different domestic varieties of blackberries, all of which are thornless and less seedy than your traditional Ohio Blackberries. We will share tips on how to select the ripest blackberries and the best ways to store and use them. You will go home with one of our homemade blackberry jams

**Cost:** $12

**Length:**

**Season** : Available late July – Early August

**Option #3- Enjoying Beautiful Flowers**

Stroll through our vibrant flower gardens and handpick a beautiful bouquet to take home. Our gardens are full of colorful blooms that will brighten your day and your home. We have cups for you to use as vases that will fit right in the cupholder.

**Cost:** $12

**Length:**

**Season:** Available July & August

**Bridges of Union County**

Sit back, relax, and let a seasoned guide navigate the pastoral countryside on a tour of the seven covered bridges of Union County. Four of the bridges are historic (constructed in the 1800s) and were built by local resident Reuben Partridge, a prolific builder who built well over 100 bridges in Ohio. This scenic driving tour includes expansive views of the Big Darby Plains Scenic Byway. Please note that the bus is unable to stop (or allow guests to deboard) at any of the bridges other than Pottersburg Bridge.

**Cost:** $50 per bus

**Length of Experience:** 1- 1 ½ hour, depending

**Buckeye Brass & Winds**

Take a walking tour with owner Rob Phillips as he shares how his talented team breathes new life into old instruments. Known for being a top source for instrument repairs for The Ohio State University Marching Band, these highly skilled musicians will treat you to a brief musical performance of Civil War trumpets and the church’s original organ after the tour. Located in what was once a church, the former sanctuary with beautiful stained-glass windows is the perfect setting for such an experience.

**Season:** Although the experience is available year-round, the preferred timeframe is June-July.

**Cost**: $8

**Length of Experience**: 1 hour

**Fresh Harvest Farm**

Fresh Harvest Farm grows 100% organic produce using Aquaponic systems. Aquaponics combines aquaculture (raising fish in a contained environment) and hydroponics (growing in a soilless, recirculating water system). Meet the visionary couple, Jeni and Doug Blackbern, who is partnering with the Ohio State University to conduct research, not only in raising perch in this manner but their innovative approach to hatching perch eggs. Marvel at how this sustainable closed-looped system works to produce various crops from specialty salad greens to tomatoes and more. This farm tour will walk you through the whole process and provide the opportunity to pet some furry friends!

**Season:** May - October

**Cost:** $5 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

**Honda Heritage Center**

Fueled by the Power of Dreams, Honda continues to rank as the world’s most innovative mobility company. The Honda Heritage Center™ highlights the company’s successes in North America over the last half century with an array of historical, current, and future products – each with its own story. Honda Manufacturing of North America, Inc., made its home in Union County in 1979 and continues to inspire today through this state-of-the-art facility.

**Hours of Operation: Open THURSDAY only for large group tours from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Cost:** no charge

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

**Cookie Painting at Kitschen Bakery**

Come one come all and experience the wonder of Colonel Noah Orr, Union County's Giant. Have a blast at this creative carnival of cookie painting with the Orr family recipe. Follow guide Katy from Kitschen bakery as she artfully shares 19th century cooking tips and the fascinating history of Noah Orr. Freshen up with a delicious cup of herbal berry tea and coffee from our local Shaded City Coffee Roasters. Laugh and make fond memories painting cookies, taking photos with a life size Noah Orr!

**Cost:** $15/ person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hr.

**Leo Berbee/Dutch Mill Greenhouse Tour and Succulent Bar**

There’s truth in the Hans Christian Anderson quote, “Just living is not enough... one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower,” - the only exception is that there is nothing little about the family-owned Leo Berbee Bulb Co. For more than 50 years, the Berbee family has been shipping millions of flower bulbs – more than 900 varieties - all over the U.S. from their Marysville, Ohio location. Among their esteemed customer list is the Columbus Zoo, U.S. Botanic Garden, The Pentagon, and the National Parks Service! This Dutch family is proud to offer true Holland bulbs to their customers. Tour the facility, learn more about this family business, rich with history, see the hand-painted bulb that’s part of the Gildemeesters Bollenstreek Giant Tulip Bulb Project, and take home a pack of colorful inspiration for your own garden.

**Options:**

1. **Stretch Your Legs:** Shop in our Garden Center – Dutch Mill Greenhouse. A discounted coupon will be given for shopping that day.

**Cost:** free

**Length of experience:** 1 hour

1. **Quick Trip:** Tour of the Leo Berbee warehouse with historical data **OR** gardening presentation at Dutch Mill Greenhouse, shopping time with discounted coupon for that day.

**Cost:** $5/person

**Length of experience:** 1 hour

1. **Complete Package**: Tour of Leo Berbee warehouse with historical data, gardening presentation at Dutch Mill Greenhouse, shopping time with discounted coupon and pack of seasonal flower bulbs for each guest to take home.

**Cost**: $10/person

**Length of experience**: 1 – 1 ½ hours

1. **Porch Pot Workshop**: available April – December. Includes all supplies needed to create a 12” Porch Pot.

**Cost:** $35/person

**Length of experience:** 1 hour

1. **Succulent Bar Workshop**: Available April – December. Includes all supplies needed to make a succulent planter. Attendees select a pot, plant, and decorative rock topper.

**Cost:** $15/person

**Length of experience**: 1 hour

1. **Amaryllis/Paperwhites Workshop**: Available October – December. Price reflects all supplies needed.

**Cost:** $15/person

**Length of experience:** 1 hour

1. **Bulb Layering Workshop:** Available September – November. Layering bulbs for a complete spring garden in a pot.

**Cost:** $20/person

**Length of experience:** 1 hour

**Marysville Art League**

Spark and inspire your creative side, thanks to the guidance of the staff at the Marysville Art League. Activate your inner artist and treat your sweet tooth, as you paint and delight in this popular “Cookies and Canvas” experience. They always offer unique art exhibits and bi- monthly featured local artist, photographer and youth artist. The Houston Legacy is rich in history and in Union County. Marysville Art League also hosts Artisan Gallery 264 with over 27 local artist works for sale.

**Cookies and Canvas**

**Cost**: $15 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 ½ hours

**The Maize at Little Darby Creek**

Located along Little Darby Creek in Union County, The MAiZE at Little Darby Creek is owned and operated by the Rausch family. Known for their unique 8-acre corn maze designs, The MAiZE has become a tradition for fall fun on the farm in central Ohio. Learn how the Rausch family designs and creates their original corn maze each year. Enjoy a hayride out to the pumpkin patch where you can choose a pie pumpkin to take home. Delight in the fun of watching the pumpkin blaster launch pumpkins across the field.

**Option 1:** Overview of maze design, hayride, pumpkin blaster, and shopping opportunity in gift shop.

Cost: $10 per person \*minimum payment of 25\*

**Option 2:** Overview of maze design, hayride, pumpkin blaster, shopping, plus the opportunity to pick your own pie pumpkin **OR** enjoy an 8 oz. apple cider slushy and bag of kettle corn.

Cost: $15 per person\*minimum payment of 25\*

**Option 3:** Overview of maze design, hayride, pick your own pie pumpkin, pumpkin blaster, shopping, apple cider slushie and bag of kettle corn.

Cost: $20 per person \*minimum payment of 25\*

**Length of experience**: 1 – 1 ½ hours, depending on option choice

**Season:** Mid-September through end of October

**Minimum**: 25

Driver and escort are comped.

**Mitchell’s Berries & Blooms**

When visitors see the nostalgic 1954 Chevy truck at the entrance of **Mitchell’s Berries & Blooms**, they are reminded of a simpler time when friends and neighbors shared the bounty of the growing season. It speaks to the spirit of hospitality and the endearing homey style of the Mitchell family that has been passed down for 200+ years. With more than 25,000 berry plants and countless floral seeds and bulbs, the harvests and memories are plentiful. Groups enjoy a variety of experiences from berry samplings and overviews to petals and pollinators, an agricultural education on the importance of bees set amongst the backdrop of a colorful meadow of flowers.

**Options:**

* **Strawberry Overview and Berry Sampling**

Includes an overview and taste of fresh-picked strawberries. Take home a gift pack of favorite Mitchell family berry recipes.

**Season:** Late May to mid-June

**Cost:** $6 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

* **Raspberry Overview and Berry Sampling**

Includes an overview and a taste of different varieties of freshly picked raspberries. Take home a gift pack of favorite Mitchell family berry recipes.

**Season:** Mid-June – Early July

**Cost:** $6 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

* **Petals and Pollinators**

Includes an overview tour and agricultural education on the importance of bees to our farmers. Set amongst the backdrop of a colorful meadow full of zinnias, cosmos, and sunflowers, learn how bees are helpful pollinators for flowers and berries alike! Take home a wildflower seed packet to begin your own pollinator garden).

**Season:** Late July – Early August

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

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**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

**NEW! Ohio Caverns**

Ohio Caverns is often recognized as “America’s most colorful caverns.” The caverns are the largest in the state, with approximately 1 mile of surveyed passage ranging in depth from 30 feet to 103 feet. Ohio Caverns is an all-weather attraction and is open all year. Each tour is guided and is an easy walk through the cavern. All tours take approximately one hour. The temperature remains at a constant 54 degrees throughout the year. The tours are educational and provide the public with an opportunity to see the wonderful world of underground beauty. Photography is welcome!

**Options:**

* **Winter Tour (October-April)**

This tour includes highlights of the Natural Wonder Tour and Historic Tour plus a section that is not toured during the summer session.

**Cost:** $20 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

* **Natural Wonder Tour (May-September)**

Guests follow a winding path overlooking the beautiful valley and enter the cavern through a sinkhole entrance opened in 2012. The tour covers an area discovered in the 1920’s. Guides provide information about the geology of the cavern along with describing the variety of formations.

**Cost:** $20 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

* **Historic Tour (May-September)**

Take the Historic Tour! The tour includes parts of the caverns viewed by visitors from 1897-1925. It was re-opened for tours in celebration of the 100 year anniversary of its discovery. The historical tour begins aboard a shuttle bus to the original entrance. Guests descend 44 steps into the cavern at the site of discovery. Guides provide information about the discovery and development of the caverns.

**Cost:** $20 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

* **Combo Tour (May-September)**

Experience both the Historic and Natural Wonder Tours in the same day for a discount!

**Cost:** $30 per person

**Length of Experience:** 2 hours

**Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Store**

Imagine a time when the areas in front of homes were not “yards,” but rather patches of mud or dust. There was no such thing as lawn wars and not a lot of incentive to place flowering plants on the front stoop. These dreary patches of mud were soon transformed into welcoming green grass and places to recreate when O.M. Scott began selling lawn seed in 1868. Step back in time, as you visit his original hardware store located in Uptown Marysville. This inspiring tour includes a history of the company, an opportunity to “ask an expert”, and leave motivated to try your hand at “anything green” with a lovely take home gift.

**Cost:** $10 per person

**Length of experience**: Varies

**Shopping in Uptown Marysville**

Explore Uptown Marysville, with a host of shopping and dining options. Most notably:

* 2nd Chances Thrift Store
* 2nd Chances Furniture & Home
* Betsy’s Boutique
* Coffee Hall and Creamery
* Gathered Goods
* Iron Threads
* Kitschen Bakery
* Plumm Home
* Rollies
* Scotts Miracle Grow Company Store
* The Ribbon Box
* Union Station 1820
* Wander & Wild
* Whit’s Frozen Custard

Bus parking available at Union Station 1820, 109 E. Fifth St. Traffic cones will be placed to reserve parking.

**The Taphouse at Retreat 21**

Savor the sights of the rolling hills and vineyard landscape while you sip a naturally crafted beverage at Retreat 21. As a 64-acre farm with an onsite cidery, Retreat 21 is a place to adventure, unwind, and celebrate thoughtfully.

**Options:**

**Lemon Lavender Experience:** The fragrant and delicious culinary lavender grown and harvested on the Retreat 21 farm is used for lemonade and other specialty cocktails. During your visit, you will create your own dried lavender sachet while you learn more about the farm, cidery and winery.

**Season:**Anytime

**Cost:** $10 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

**Cider or Wine Tasting Experience:** Enjoy an immersive tasting experience surrounded by nature. Sip on a flight of onsite-made ciders or R21 Brand wines while you learn from our cider makers and wine experts about the selected beverages.

**Season:**Anytime

**Cost:** $16 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

**Add paired local snacks:** $10 per person

**Create your own wine or cider blend:** custom pricing

**The Whimsy Bus - Kokedama Moss Ball Planting and More!**

Your instructor, Pam, guides your group through an unusual way to plant. Known as Kokedama in Japan, the art of moss ball planting inspires rookie and master gardeners alike to think outside the garden pot. Visitors are encouraged to use their imagination working with natural materials while practicing mindfulness. Enjoy creating something truly unique and take home a special creation of your own!

**Season:** May - October

**Cost:** $15 per person

**Length of Experience:** 1 hour

**Option 2: Holy Snack.** During Bible times the three main foods were grapes, olives and bread. They used what they had and what they could store for long periods. Learn about the plants of the Bible and then enjoy a snack utilizing these foods.

**Cost:** $10/person

**Length of experience:** 45 minutes