Houston Museum Of Natural Science
Birthday Party Information Packet

This Packet Includes

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Interested in Membership?

❖ Any level of membership qualifies for a discount on our classroom birthday parties at HMNS!
❖ Some party options are exclusive to members or certain levels of membership.
❖ Additional member benefits to exhibits and events throughout the year, not to mention Summer Camps at HMNS!
❖ Visit our membership page for more information.
The Basics

Hermann Park Location:

- Classroom
  - **Small Party**.......................$350/$465
    up to 30 people in single classroom
  - **Large Party**......................$550/$665
    up to 75 people in double classroom
- Deluxe – members only
  - **Small Party**.......................$800
    up to 50 people on half the Overlook
    - Family level of membership
    and above only
  - **Large Party**.......................$1200
    up to 75 people on entire Overlook
    - Discoverer Members and above only

Parties at Hermann Park can be booked from 9 – 11am, 12 – 2pm, and 3 – 5pm.

Sugar Land Location:

- Classroom
  - **Small Party**.......................$350/$465
    up to 30 people in single classroom
  - **Large Party**.......................$550/$665
    up to 75 people in the Conference room.
- Deluxe party option unavailable at this location

All Sugar Land parties can be booked from 11am – 1pm and 2 – 4pm.

All birthday parties are a maximum of 2 hours with access to the permanent exhibit halls for you and your guests the day of your party.

Your Party Includes

- Private party space for you and your guests.
- Age appropriate, theme-specific activity.
- Designated, museum-staffed party facilitator.
- Exploration tour or Burke Baker Planetarium show.
- Complimentary parking passes for up to 2 cars in the museum garage.
- Access to the permanent exhibit halls for you and your guests.
- Sensory friendly options.
- Options for upgrades.
- Museum staff will handle the clean-up, so you don’t have to!
Selection of Upgrades

**Upgrades are subject to availability**

NO OUTSIDE VENDORS PLEASE

- Burke Baker Planetarium...............up to 30 people - $150
  up to 75 people - $375
- Expedition Center mission..................$275
- Butterfly release..........................$175
- Live animal presentation..................$275
- Dinosaur Discovery presentation...........$275
- Live insect presentation...................$275
- Space: Going the Distance! presentation...$175
- Chemistry presentation....................$275
- Wortham Giant Screen film..............up to 30 people - $180
  up to 75 people - $450
- Face painter.................................$250
- Balloon artist.................................$225

Some upgrades are not available at the Sugar Land location.

For a full list of upgrade options, availabilities, and more information, visit our website here.

Accessibility Options

- Pre-visit Exploration Planner
- Sensory Guide
- Access HMNS app for both Android and Apple
- Visual vocabulary cards
- All or part of our sensory backpacks
  * Up to 15 currently available
- Elimination of balloons
- Modification of activity
- Modification of lighting in the party room
- Separate decompression space available

If any of your party would like accessibility accommodations, please let us know at booking.

Visit our website for more information at hmns.org/accessibility
# How it Works

## Party Themes to Choose From

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age 1 - 3</th>
<th>Dinosaur</th>
<th>Insects and Butterflies</th>
<th>Space/ Astronomy</th>
<th>Science Explorers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 4 - 6</td>
<td>Tour our massive Paleontology hall. Dig in to a mini dinosaur excavation.</td>
<td>Tour of the Cockrell Butterfly Center. Create your own butterfly life cycle.</td>
<td>Take a trip through space in the Burke Baker Planetarium. Make your own solar prints!</td>
<td>Scout the Hall of African and Texas Wildlife. Create UV beads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 7 - 9</td>
<td>Tour our massive paleontology hall. Make your very own dino cast.</td>
<td>Create your own creepy crawly. Embark on expedition to the Cockrell Butterfly Center.</td>
<td>Engineer straw rockets of your very own. Voyage to the moon and back in the Burke Baker Planetarium.</td>
<td>Scout the Hall of African and Texas Wildlife. Whip up your own slime with glow-in-the-dark slime!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 10 - 12</td>
<td>Tour our massive paleontology hall. Examine real fossils. Take home your very own fossil!</td>
<td>Craft a mosaic out of real butterfly wings. Tour the Cockrell Butterfly Center.</td>
<td>Survive a tornado and fall into a blackhole in the Burke Baker Planetarium. Craft an egg-lander in a friendly engineering competition.</td>
<td>Tour the Halls of Texas and African wildlife. Create a chromatography project.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional options to celebrate teenagers and adults can be found [here](#).
To Book Your Party

- **We recommend booking your party at least 4 – 6 weeks in advance of your target party date.**
  * Changes to your party package can be made up to two weeks prior to the date of your party. Reservation Coordinators will be unable to make any changes after that time.

- **Keep in mind**
  * Some days and times are busier than others.
  * If choosing busier times, it may be much more challenging for your guests to get to your party. May we recommend: the earlier in the day, the better!

- **Reserve your party!**
  To make an inquiry or find out more information
  - Email reservations@hmns.org
  - Fill out this form on our website
    - Please allow up to 3 business days for our staff to connect with you

- **Deposit**
  * A deposit of half the cost of the party is required to reserve your date and time.
  * The remaining balance will need to be paid at least 2 weeks in advance of your party date.

- **Refund Policy**
  * There are **no refunds** on money put toward a birthday party.
  * If you need to cancel for any reason, we will put any money you have put down on account to use as you choose within the HMNS system for **up to a year after cancellation.**

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**We Provide**

- Eco-friendly balloons
- Paper-covered tables
- Chairs for your party goers
- Complimentary passes for up to 2 cars in the museum parking garage
- Discounted parking for each of your guests’ cars
- Cake knife and lighter
- We take care of clean-up, too!

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**Finalizing**

- **Your party is not confirmed until the final payment is made up to 2 weeks in advance of your party date, so make sure to complete your booking!**
  * An email confirmation will be sent once the deposit is received.
  * Changes to your party package can be made up to two weeks prior to the date of your party. Reservation Coordinators will be unable to make any changes after that time.

- Invite your friends to celebrate with you!
  * Let them know how to get to the museum and options for parking [here](#) or a route-planning map [here](#).
Party Room Set-Up

The Party Rooms

- To acclimate yourself to the party space before you get to your party
  * Photos and specifications of our party spaces are available online or via email.
  * We can arrange a site visit for you in person. However, it must be via appointment only and will be subject to a $200 charge.
- The number of people allowed in your party space is limited by the Harris County fire code regulations.
  * If you are expecting more than your space can accommodate, we will have to limit the attendance for you or move to a larger space as available for a greater fee.
- The party staff will be present and available to help with set-up as well as clean-up for you!

Don’t Forget These

- Utensils, napkins, and plates
- Cake or cupcakes
- Candles
- Face masks for guests
- Drinks (non-alcoholic)
- Gifts for the birthday host!

Leave These at Home

- Helium balloons.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Heating appliances, such as crockpots or chaffing dishes.
- Smash cakes.
- Animals that are not certified (or in training) service animals.
- Confetti or glitter.
- Traditional piñatas, though pull-string piñatas are allowed.
- Wall-mounted decorations. **Nothing may be taped to any walls.**
Express Party Option

- Members only
- Great option to gather briefly for cake in a designated room.
- Provides access to
  - Undecorated room, up to 30 people for 40 minutes.
  - Entry to permanent exhibit halls for up to 30 people.
- Does not include activities, tour, decorations, parking passes, upgrades, or facilitators.

Parking Information

**Hermann Park location**

- A designated drop-off area is available for you to meet the party facilitators and hand-off party items.
  - For directions to the drop-off point, click 1250 Hermann Dr., Houston, Tx on the day of your party.
  - You will be coming in the Loading Dock. There will be a gate. Security will buzz you in, and you can pull up to the drop-off sign. Your party facilitator will meet you there.
  - After dropping off items, you can continue to the museum garage to park.
- For directions to the museum garage, click 5880 Caroline St., Houston, Tx on the day of your party.
  - A map can be found here at label B for the museum garage, or other parking options listed in the area.
- Coupons for discounted parking rate in the museum garage will be provided for your guests.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

**Parking Information**

**Sugar Land location**

- Please park in the free lot in front of the building.
- For directions, type 13016 University Blvd, Sugar Land, Tx into your GPS system for a guided route on the day of your party.

Keep in mind

- The museum district is very busy on weekends, especially in the afternoons.
- Any holiday time will be a challenge for you and your guests to get to the museum district.

For more information:
Visit our frequently asked questions page or Visit our webpage www.hmns.org/birthdays