Thank you for choosing the Houston Museum of Natural Science!

Here at HMNS, education is our passion, and we’re thrilled to be a part of your educational journey! With world-class exhibition halls, immersive films, hands-on labs and workshops, and STEAM-based teambuilding activities, there really is no better place for your students to enhance their education.

Your field trip is in good hands with our Youth Education Sales team. You can take advantage of a personal Field Trip Coordinator (page 11), who can help you organize a trip that works for you and your students. Exclusive online curriculum is available at hmns.org/curriculum which will help ensure that your field trip is truly educational.

Each year, we publish our Educator’s Guide, available online at hmns.org/educatorguide, which details all of the programs available to you and your students. Once you’ve used the Educator’s Guide to choose your venues and activities, the Field Trip Prep Guide is your next step for creating a memorable experience. In this planner, you will find all the information you need to prepare for your trip to HMNS, including the Required Teacher Admission sheet that you must bring with you on the day of your arrival.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our team at (713) 639-4659 or at fieldtrips@hmns.org.

Best,

HMNS Staff

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the Houston Museum of Natural Science

Required Teacher Admission Sheet

The following form MUST be brought completed with payment to the school check-in podium upon your arrival. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the field trip line at 713-639-4659.

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Bus Unloading and Check In:
Please arrive at least 15-20 minutes prior to your first timed entry. If students need to be divided into groups, this should be done before arrival.

- Buses will unload on Hermann Park Drive near the “Bus Unloading Zone” sign. Buses should NOT unload on Caroline Street.
- All lunches and backpacks must be left on the bus. Arrangements for lunch and pick up plans should be made with your bus driver prior to arriving at the Museum.
- Unload students and line them up at the “Teacher Reporting Point” by the front steps.
- Students and chaperones (including teachers and parents) should be counted. Money should be collected prior to arriving. All cash payments must be consolidated into large bill before arrival. All adults participating on the trip are required to pay.
- The group must have, or pay for, 10 or more students to receive the Field Trip Rate. Bus drivers wishing to participate in the Field Trip will be charged the Group Rate instead unless they are included in the original chaperone count. If they are included, they will receive the Field Trip Rate.
- The lead teacher for the field trip should bring this completed form and payment to the “School Greeter Booth” inside the main entrance before their group is allowed to enter the Museum.

Chaperone Information:
- Masks are required inside the museum for all visitors over the age of 10 years old.
- A chaperone is required for every 10 students. The group may not exceed 10 students.
- All teachers and chaperones included in the official count will pay the Field Trip rate.
- Adults not included in the above chaperone count will need to purchase their own tickets at the full rate, if available, upon arrival.
- The lead teacher must inform all chaperones of the venue and entry times for your reservation. Museum personnel are not allowed to give out this information for the safety of the students.
- Chaperones parking in the Museum Garage and planning to pay at the box office, should inform the box office attendant they are with a school for a reduced rate.

Lead Teacher Agreement:
By signing this document, I agree the student, chaperone, and teacher amounts are correct. I also agree to ensure that all teachers, parents, and chaperones visiting The Houston Museum of Natural Science have read the above information and the Museum Etiquette guidelines (page 3). I understand that a failure to follow the outlined procedures, or adhere to museum etiquette guidelines, may result in the school group’s removal from the Museum without a refund.

Lead Teacher Signature: ________________________________
Museum Etiquette Guidelines

Please review the following Museum Etiquette Guidelines with your students and chaperones.

- All visitors, 10 years old or older, must wear a mask while inside the museum.
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
- Keep a safe distance from objects, walls, cases, artifacts, and photographs. The oils, salts, and acids in our sweat can damage works of art and artifacts. (Touching of exhibits is only permitted in the Cabinet of Curiosities.)
- Be respectful of Museum Staff, other school groups, and visitors to the Museum – this includes but not limited to:
  - Being considerate when speaking to Museum Staff
  - Using a quiet voice when walking through the halls
  - Not using profanity or derogatory language
- Cell phones must be silenced while in the halls and theatres
- Food, drinks, and chewing gum are not allowed in the halls.
- Students are not permitted to run or jump in the halls.
- When visiting the Morian Overlook, please do not allow students to drop objects over the balcony into the Morian Hall of Paleontology.
- Please refrain from blocking exit and/or entryways throughout the Museum.
- While viewing exhibits, please allow space for other patrons to safely pass.

Teachers and chaperones are responsible for the behavior of their students and children during their visit to the Museum. We thank you in advance for ensuring that our Museum remains in exceptional condition and is safe for all visitors to enjoy.

Groups that do not follow the Museum Etiquette Guidelines may be asked to leave the Museum without a refund.
Field Trip Checklist

Two to four weeks prior to trip:
☐ Complete required school documentation (field trip permission forms, transportation forms, etc.).
☐ Secure chaperones for trip; at least one chaperone for every ten students. Groups should not exceed 10 students. **Chaperones must be 21 years of age or older.**
☐ Coordinate transportation with your district.
☐ Download online curriculum at [hmns.org/curriculum](http://hmns.org/curriculum).
☐ If possible, visit the Museum ahead of time to familiarize yourself with the location.

The day before your field trip:
☐ Adjust final count of students, parents, teachers, and chaperones. Write this number on the **Required Teacher Admission Sheet** (page 2). All participants who are included in your school’s payment (students, parents, chaperones, and teachers) should be counted on that sheet.
☐ Adults not included in the chaperone count will need to purchase their own tickets at the full rate, if available, upon arrival.
☐ Assign students to groups. One chaperone is required for every ten students. The group may not exceed 10 students.
☐ Prepare payment. Final payment is due upon check in. Cash payments **must** be consolidated into large bills.
☐ Review the Museum Etiquette guidelines with your students and chaperones (page 3).
☐ Ensure that all chaperones have a copy of the Museum Map (pages 8-10) and your field trip itinerary.
☐ Distribute curriculum to students along with necessary materials.

The day of your field trip:
☐ Ensure that all chaperones have a copy of the Museum Map (pages 8-10) and your field trip itinerary.
☐ Buses will unload on Hermann Park Drive near the “**Bus Unloading Zone**” signs. Lunches must be left on the bus unless prior arrangements have been made.
☐ Once unloaded, students will line up outside the main entrance at the “**Teacher Reporting Point**” while the lead teacher enters the Museum to check in.
☐ During check in, the lead teacher will provide a final count, payment, and the **Required Teacher Admission Sheet** (page 2).
☐ Once checked in, chaperones may lead their student group into the Museum. Remind chaperones that they must remain with their student group at all times.

**Safety Tip:** Please bring student medical forms and all necessary medications to ensure a safe and enjoyable field trip!
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Are lunches available to purchase for school groups?**
   Currently, pre-order lunches for school groups are not available.

2. **Where do we eat lunch?**
   *Lunches and coolers must remain on the school bus during the Field Trip. School groups may eat either on the bus, the hill between the Museum and Miller Outdoor Theater, or in Hermann Park. School groups may not eat lunch at McGovern Centennial Gardens. Classrooms for lunch space are available for a fee – space is subject to availability.
   *Due to the global pandemic, we are unable to accommodate the storage of lunches at this time.*

3. **What if I have fewer than 10 students?**
   Groups of fewer than 10 students may still book a field trip; however, they will be charged for 10 students plus any chaperones if they wish to receive the field trip rate. Our representatives are available to help determine the most cost-efficient method for your group to visit the Museum.

   For an established field trip, the person who booked the trip should call (713) 639-4659 or email reservations@hmns.org at any time prior to the day of arrival to add or subtract people from the reservation. Groups that fall below 10 students will be charged for 10 students plus any chaperones in order to receive the field trip rate.

4. **How many chaperones do I need?**
   We require one chaperone for every ten students (groups should not exceed 10 students). Chaperones must remain with their students at all times. Chaperones must be at least 21 years of age and must wear their chaperone sticker. All teachers and chaperones included in the official count will pay the field trip rate; those not included in the chaperone count will need to purchase their own tickets at the full rate, if available, upon arrival.

5. **What do we do if the student number changes?**
   Before the trip, reservation numbers can be updated by emailing reservations@hmns.org. On the day of the trip, the final count of students, parents, teachers, and chaperones must be written on the Required Teacher Admission Sheet found on page 2.

6. **Can I change my reservation?**
   Adding or removing venues from a reservation requires a 24-hour notice, if available. After tickets have been printed, the reservation may not be changed.

7. **How do I pay for my field trip?**
   Field Trips may be paid for in advance by calling (713) 639-4659, by paying online via payment link, by mailing a check, or on the day of the trip. If you choose to pay on the day of the trip, the Museum will accept school district checks, credit cards, or cash (large bills only). A purchase order (PO) will not be accepted. Field Trips must be paid for in one transaction. All students and chaperones on the reservation should give their payment to one person who will present the money at the box office.

   *If you pay with a school check, please make sure to write your 7-digit confirmation number on the check.*

   **Please mail checks to:**
   The Houston Museum of Natural Science
   ATTN: School Services
   5555 Hermann Park Dr.
   Houston, TX 77030-1718
8. **Do you have curriculum for the venues?**
The Museum offers customized TEKS-based curriculum, available at [hmns.org/curriculum](http://hmns.org/curriculum) to accompany your field trip. These free units are designed to make the field trip experience educationally sound and fun and include a TEKS-aligned knowledge hunt and extension activities for grades K-8. High school curriculum is available, with a two-week notice, upon request. For questions, email [educationquestions@hmns.org](mailto:educationquestions@hmns.org).

9. **The Museum is so large. How can I focus my trip so my students get the most out of it?**
Our Field Trip packages, available at [hmns.org/ftpackages](http://hmns.org/ftpackages), allow teachers to theme their field trips based on a specific topic of their choice. Available on a first come first served basis, these packages help teachers align their trips to their curriculum goals.

10. **Can we see special/traveling exhibitions?**
Absolutely! Visit our Exhibitions page at [hmns.org/exhibits](http://hmns.org/exhibits) for more information about what is currently on display.

11. **Do you offer any accommodations for chaperones and/or special needs students?**
Yes! Please inform HMNS staff prior to your trip of any special requirements i.e. wheelchairs, private areas for medication administration. We will do our best to accommodate you. Also, visit [hmns.org/accessibility](http://hmns.org/accessibility) for Sensory Guides and Visual Vocabulary Cards.

12. **Are guided tours available?**
No, docents guided tours are not currently available.

13. **Are there any hands-on programs for students?**
Explore science, nature, and history in our interactive science labs which feature specimens, artifacts, and laboratory equipment.

Each lab lasts one hour and accommodates up to 25 students. If your group is interested in scheduling a lab, please visit [hmns.org/lab](http://hmns.org/lab) or contact [reservations@hmns.org](mailto:reservations@hmns.org).

Have a question the FAQs don’t answer? Contact us at 713-639-4659 or [reservations@hmns.org](mailto:reservations@hmns.org).
Bus Parking Plan*

Bus Parking Areas (as directed): **
1 Sam Houston Parking Lot - 9 spaces designated "Bus Parking Only"
   Parking in regular spaces not allowed. ***
2 Bus Parallel Parking along Golf Course Drive where designated.
3 Bus Parking in Lot E as directed; parking in this area requires HMNS ticket provided by
   school check-in greeter.*

* Parking areas subject to change as needed.
** Follow directions of HMNS Security and Park Rangers to designated areas.
*** Parking in non-designated areas without directions from staff may result in parking citations issued to violators.
Museum Map

LOWER LEVEL

- A: Albert and Margaret Alkek Education Center
- B: Animal Alcove
- C: Education Classrooms
- D: Evelyn and Herbert J. Frensley Hall of Astronomy
- E: Expedition Center
- F: Hall of Science Exploration Education Classrooms
- G: Lower Level Conference Room (LLCR)
- H: Scout Office
- I: Vintage Texas Wildlife Dioramas
- J: Volunteer Library
- K: Volunteer Office
- L: The W. T. and Louise J. Moran Lecture Hall
- M: Youth Education Office
Hall of Ancient Egypt is temporarily closed through winter 2021

Hall of the Americas is closed through spring 2023 for renovations
HMNS Representative

During the school year, email is the best way to reach your Field Trip Representative. The next time you are ready to plan a Field Trip, they will be able to help you plan an itinerary that is ideal for your students! If your district is not listed below, feel free to contact us at reservations@hmns.org for more information.

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