

Welcome to the State Historical Museum of Iowa!

Active and attentive chaperones are very important to ensure your group has a safe and enjoyable time at the museum. We ask our teachers and chaperones to enforce our visit expectations during their visit. Please review this letter so you and the students have a successful visit to the museum.

MUSEUM MANNERS

As a chaperone, please follow and enforce our museum manners during your visit.



Take Charge

Teachers and chaperones are responsible for maintaining discipline and overseeing students.



Supervise

Students must remain in chaperoned groups throughout their visit. Students are not allowed to explore the museum without adult supervision. Students must always be within eyesight of their adult chaperone while in the exhibits.



Be a Role Model

Set a good example for students while visiting the museum by following and enforcing the museum manners.



Connect and Encourage

Encourage students' participation in learning and foster conversations about history by using the provided guides within the exhibits. Take your time exploring the museum and advise students to not rush through the spaces.



Safety First

Please assist with safety by helping students on staircases and elevators, and guide all students to follow safety procedures during their visit.



Keep Count

To ensure your group remains together, please count and recount your students during your visit. Count as you leave the building to make sure no one is left behind.



Remain Engaged

Be an engaged and active participant during your visit. Using the provided exhibit guides, ask students open-ended questions and engage with conversations. Demonstrate a curiosity to learn alongside the students.

PARKING



Parking Garage

Free parking for cars and full-size vans is available in the Capitol Complex Parking Garage located north of the museum. The parking ramp entrance is located on Des Moines Street.

Street Parking

Metered street parking is available around the museum building and can be paid using pay kiosks. Meters can also be paid using the ParkDSM app.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

The main entrance for the State Historical Museum of Iowa is located on East Locust Street. If arriving separately from the school group, please head into the museum and check in with the Information Desk staff. Please wait in the museum's atrium space for your group to arrive.

EDUCATIONAL GUIDES

Visits to the museum are self-guided. In order to assist chaperones while leading students through the museum, all groups are provided printed copies of educational guides to use during their visit. The guides allow students and their chaperones to explore the museum at their own pace while highlighting important historic objects and providing open questions to facilitate conversations. Use these guides to engage with students and encourage learning about Iowa's past.