

Night Journey Chaperone Information Sheet

Please distribute to all families and chaperones.

For additional information about our overnight programs, please check out our overnight FAQ, available at ecotarium.org/night-journeys/.

Before Your Overnight

Getting Ready: We recommend all chaperones share cellphone numbers with their group in advance of their overnight to ensure a smooth arrival and check-in process, especially if an individual is running late.

When packing, please bring what you need to be comfortable sleeping on the floor in a variety of temperatures. Like many other old buildings, our building has variable temperatures, so we suggest dressing in layers for your stay. Please check the weather forecast and bring clothing appropriate for going outside in the predicted conditions.

Do Bring: Pajamas, toothbrush, an extra layer, sleeping bag, pillow, and air mattress (twin size for one, queen size for two). Adults are encouraged to bring a flashlight, ear plugs, and sleeping mask. Stuffed animals are welcome.

Do Not Bring: Straws, balloons, toy weapons, pets, alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, fireworks, firearms, or other weapons or restricted substances.

Dinner: Guests may eat dinner before the overnight, bring a dinner to eat here, have food delivered, or purchase it on-site. Dinner options offered by our on-site vendor may include mac n' cheese, pizza, hot dogs, ice cream, popcorn and other snacks. Please be aware that the **EcoTarium is not a nut-free facility**, though we do not serve nuts during snack or breakfast.

Directions: Use your favorite GPS or use this link for directions to the EcoTarium:
<http://www.ecotarium.org/visitor/directions.html>

Arrival Information: All cars must stop at the gatehouse for instructions before proceeding onto museum grounds. **Arrival begins at 5 pm** for Night Journey guests and check-in runs from 5:15 until 6:30 pm when our gates close and overnight programming begins. 5:30-6:30 pm is a great time for your group to explore the museum, since most of your overnight visit will be focused on our themed programming. Our **gates will close at 6:30 pm**, when the program starts. **Guests who are running late should notify their group leader before 6:30 pm** of their new arrival time, and group leaders should inform staff so they can plan accordingly. Please do not call the EcoTarium main line if you are running late, as our switchboard is only open from 10 am to 5 pm.

During Your Overnight

Evening Schedule: Programming will begin at approximately 6:30 pm. At that time, staff will begin by introducing the rules, schedule, and theme for the night. Evening programming usually concludes between 10:00 and 10:30 p.m., depending upon the activities and flow of the evening. Quiet hours begin as soon as evening programming ends and should be taken seriously.

Food: Healthy snacks will be provided for your group around 8:00 pm and may include fruit-filled cereal bars, fruit, animal crackers, and water. A light breakfast is served around 6:30 am and may include cereal, instant oatmeal, fruit, bagels, coffee, and juice. Guests with dietary restrictions are encouraged to bring supplementary food items as desired and those with severe allergies are advised to notify the overnight coordinators in advance to ensure a positive experience.

Sharing the Museum We can accommodate no more than four overnight groups per night, or 120 total guests. All groups will participate in the same evening theme and have a shared overnight experience. This is a great opportunity to make friends from other regions and backgrounds! We ask that all groups remain respectful of each other throughout their time at our museum, especially during the lights-out sleeping hours.

Sleeping Arrangements Guests will sleep among the exhibits on the museum floor. For safety, youth must sleep within sight of their guardians and a few lights will be left on at all times. A limited number of outlets are available for air mattress inflation.

Morning Schedule Wake-up is at 6:00 am (6:30 am on Sunday mornings). Please bring your overnight gear to your car before eating breakfast, which will be available for an hour between wake-up and the start of morning programming. The overnight experience ends at 8 a.m. for Thursday and Friday overnights and at 10 a.m. for Saturday overnights. Guests who do not purchase the Museum Day Add-On must depart the museum grounds no later than 15 minutes after the end of their overnight program.

Museum Day Add-On The morning after your overnight, you may choose to purchase a wristband for an additional \$5 per person that will allow you to stay and explore our museum and grounds through the end of that museum day. All guests without wristbands must exit the grounds immediately upon completion of their overnight experience. The museum and grounds are closed to the public for the first two hours following the end of the overnight program, giving Museum Day Add-On guests exclusive access to the exhibits and grounds during that time.

Souvenirs Night Journey experience patches may be purchased by your group in advance for \$1.50 each. There will also be time allotted for you to explore The Museum Shop and purchase a memento of your visit.

Please Be Aware that:

- **Children must be chaperoned at all times by an adult.**
- While our programming is designed for children ages 5-12, five-year-olds in particular must have appropriate supervision and may find the overnight experience to be challenging.
- The leader or parent/guardian agrees to assume all responsibility for any injury to persons attending the overnight.
- The leader or parent/guardian also agrees to accept all loss of property and responsibility for damage to the EcoTarium and its contents caused by anyone attending the overnight.
- Smoking, use of tobacco or marijuana products, consumption of alcohol, and recreational drug use is prohibited on EcoTarium property.
- Guests should refrain from exiting the building without explicit staff permission during the overnight except to retrieve personal items from a vehicle.



If you have any questions or concerns about this information, you may contact our reservations office at 508-929-2703 or reservations@ecotarium.org.