Group Information

Thank you for scheduling a visit to OMSI! The following is information about what OMSI expects of you prior to and during your upcoming field trip.

Before your trip:

• Give each chaperone a copy of your schedule for the day, including arrival time, scheduled events and locations, lunch time and location, and departure time.
• Give each chaperone a copy of the museum floor plan (provided with this packet.) Printed maps are not available at the museum.
• Assign a small group of students to each chaperone.
• Educate chaperones and students regarding OMSI’s expectations during your visit (listed below.)
• In an effort to be more sustainable, OMSI now encourages groups to pack lunches in reusable containers. OMSI will provide non-refrigerated storage for lunches before and after lunch.
• Make enough nametags for all students and adults in your group (and a few extra just in case.) The nametags should have the name of the group on them, but not the names of individual students.

Upon arrival at OMSI:

• Arrive no earlier than 9:30 AM and no later than 15 minutes before your first scheduled event.
• When arriving in the morning, please stop in front of OMSI’s main entrance. An OMSI representative will board your bus, tell you where to check in, and give your students a brief orientation. If you are coming in separate vehicles, please ask your group to meet in the Planetarium lobby. If you are not approached within a few minutes of your arrival, please have a representative come to the Group Check-In Window.
• Be prepared to confirm your attendance count of how many students, chaperones, and staff are present and make final payment if you have a balance due.
• If your group has made reservations to use one of the sack lunch areas at OMSI, place your lunches in the bins marked with your group’s name. Bins are for lunch storage ONLY, and should not be used to store coats, backpacks, purses, or other personal items. (Lockers are available for 50 cents for those who need additional storage.) Your lunches will be moved to the sack lunch area for you. Please keep in mind that OMSI does not have refrigerators or microwaves available for public use.
• Parking is free for preregistered groups. Staff members will instruct buses about where to park upon arrival. Groups arriving in private vehicles may park in the OMSI lots (located at the North and South ends of the building respectively) for free, but drivers will need to register their parking spaces in order to avoid receiving a ticket. A parking form has been included in your confirmation materials for your convenience. Any vehicles not included on the parking form will need to register individually at the museum front desk or in the Business Office.

During your visit:

• Everyone in the group must wear a nametag bearing the group’s name at chest level at all times.
• Running, horseplay, eating, drinking, and chewing gum are prohibited in the exhibit halls.
• Students must stay with chaperones at all times. Anyone who is lost should find an OMSI representative for assistance reconnecting with his or her group.
• It is important that your entire group arrives for Reserved Labs, Stage Programs, Planetarium Shows, OMNIMAX Films, and Submarine Tours at least 10 minutes early. For safety and scheduling reasons, late entrance is not available.
• Please do not arrive early or late for your scheduled lunch time. To allow room for other groups, please do not leave empty seats between your students. Keep in mind that your entire group may not be able to sit together. Each group is responsible for cleaning up after lunch; cleaning spray and paper towels are provided for this purpose.
• OMSI is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
• Only preschool and kindergarten groups (children 6 years old or younger) are allowed in the Science Playground.
• Adults are required to accompany students into the Inventor’s Ball Room in the Turbine Hall. Please note that throwing balls at other people is strictly prohibited and may result in you and your students being asked to leave the Ball Room.
• Photography is generally allowed in the museum except in the Planetarium, OMNIMAX Theater, and the Prenatal Exhibit in the Life Science Hall. Photography may also be prohibited in other Featured Exhibits as posted.
• Groups are welcome to visit any of OMSI’s labs that are open; however, labs may be closed when reserved as part of a Reserved Lab program and to accommodate staffing demands. Scheduling a Reserved Lab session is the only way to guarantee a visit to a specific lab.
• Encourage your students and chaperones to talk about their discoveries and direct any questions they have to educators and volunteers located in each exhibit hall.

Please call (503) 797-4661 with any questions or concerns about your field trip.