

## 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 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 Concierge window or the front desk.
- Be prepared to confirm your attendance count of how many students, chaperones, and staff are present so that OMSI may invoice the group for any balance due.
- **Updated Lunch Policy for 2014-2015:** If your group has made reservations to use one of the sack lunch areas at OMSI, ***you will need to carry your lunches to the lunchroom.*** Non-refrigerated bins will be provided in the lunchroom for storing lunches during your visit. 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.) Please keep in mind that OMSI does not have refrigerators or microwaves available for public use. ***You will need to pick up your lunches in the lunchroom at the end of the day.***
- 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 no charge, 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.

## 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 Labs, Stage Programs, Planetarium Shows, Empirical Theater 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, Empirical 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.

## When you depart:

- ***Please pick up any remaining sack lunches from the lunchroom before boarding your bus. OMSI does NOT load lunches back onto your school bus.***
- If you are departing via school bus, please make sure that your bus is not blocking traffic on Water Avenue when you load your students.

## Frequently Asked Questions from Parents

We are delighted that your child will be attending a field trip to the museum! We believe that field trips are an integral part of childhood, and we are glad to be able to be a part of this important experience for students. Below you'll find answers to questions we frequently receive from parents. If you have questions that are not addressed here, please feel free to contact us.

**Question: What will my child be doing at OMSI? What activities has the class planned? Will \_\_\_\_\_ be included?**

Answer: For information about your child's activities and itinerary, please check with your child's teacher or group leader. This person is our point of contact for your group, and to eliminate confusion it is best for all questions to go through him or her, as there may be details of the trip planned by the group that OMSI staff are unaware of such as when the buses will leave or return to school, or other stops the group may be planning during the day. For safety reasons, OMSI registration staff may decline to answer detailed questions about a group's itinerary that do not come from the group leader. If you have an urgent question and are unable to contact your child's school, please contact us and we will do our best to assist you.

**Question: My family has an OMSI membership. Can my child use our membership to come on the field trip for free? If I am planning to be a chaperone, can I use our membership to come on the field trip for free?**

Answer: Thank you for supporting OMSI! We are glad to know that your family values the OMSI experience. OMSI is also pleased to be able to offer admission to our exhibits and other attractions to groups at a significantly reduced rate; however, in order to offer the lowest possible rates to groups and to simplify the field trip process for all concerned, OMSI does not combine our group rates with our membership privileges. Just as your membership is designed to provide the best possible experience to you when you visit as a family, our group rates and field trip policies are designed to provide the best possible experience to a group. If you and/or your child plan to visit with the group, participate as part of the group, and experience OMSI as part of the group, you will need to pay the same group rates as the rest of the group.

## Directions to OMSI

1945 SE Water Ave. Portland, OR 97214

### From I-5 Southbound

1. As you near downtown Portland, take exit 300B.
2. Once on the exit, move to the left-most lane.
3. Follow the brown OMSI signs off the freeway to Belmont Ave.
4. Continue east on Belmont to 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.
5. Turn south (right) onto 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.
6. Continue south to Clay St.
7. Turn west (right) onto Clay St.
8. Continue west to Water Ave.
9. Turn south (left) onto Water Ave.

### From I-5 Northbound

1. As you cross the Marquam Bridge in Portland, move to the right-most lane.
2. Take exit 300, marked OMSI/Central Eastside Industrial District.
3. Stay in the right lane on the exit ramp.
4. Turn south (right) onto Water Ave.

### From Hwy 26 (Sunset Hwy) Eastbound

1. Move to the right-most lane as the highway approaches the Vista Ridge Tunnel.
2. Follow directions to I-405 Southbound.
3. Once on I-405 Southbound, follow signs to I-5 Northbound and cross the Marquam Bridge.
4. On the bridge, move to the right-most lane and take exit 300, marked OMSI/Central Eastside Industrial District.
5. Stay in the right lane on the exit ramp.
6. Turn south (right) onto Water Ave.

### From Downtown Portland (via Morrison & Hawthorne Bridges)

1. Travel east across the Morrison Bridge (from Alder St) or Hawthorne Bridge (from Madison St).
2. Stay in the right lane.
3. Continue east to 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.
4. Turn south (right) onto 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.
5. Continue south to Clay St.
6. Turn west (right) onto Clay St.
7. Continue west to Water Ave.
8. Turn south (left) onto Water Ave.

### From Martin Luther King Jr Blvd (Hwy 99E) Southbound

1. Travel south to Taylor St.
2. Turn west (right) onto Taylor St.
3. Continue west to Water Ave.
4. Turn south (left) onto Water Ave.

### From Grand Ave (Hwy 99E) Northbound

1. Travel north to Clay St.
2. Turn west (left) onto Clay St.
3. Continue west to Water Ave.
4. Turn south (left) onto Water Ave.

### From I-84 (Banfield Fwy) Westbound

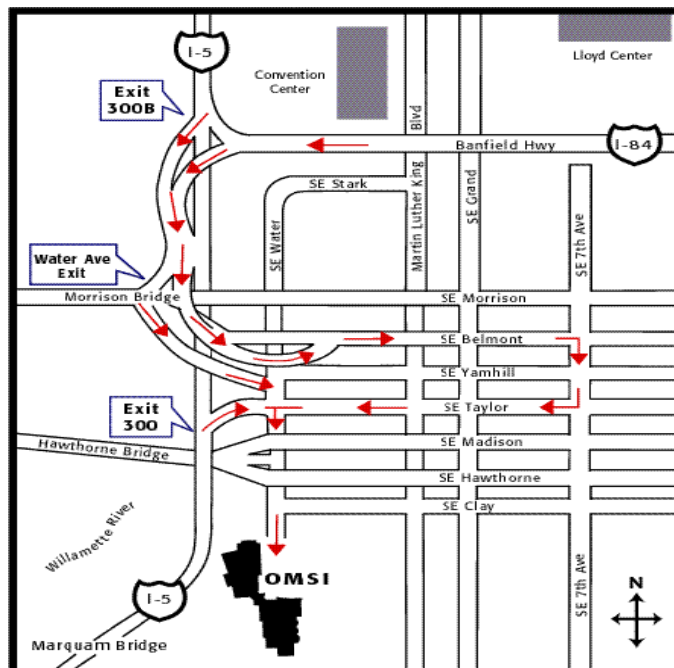
1. As you near downtown Portland, move to the center lane.
2. As I-84 merges with I-5, travel south (left) and follow the brown OMSI signs.
3. The signs will lead you off the freeway to Belmont Ave.
4. Continue on Belmont to 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.
5. Turn south (right) onto 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.
6. Continue south to Clay St.
7. Turn west (right) onto Clay St.
8. Continue west to Water Ave.
9. Turn south (left) onto Water Ave.

### From Portland International Airport

1. Take Airport Way eastbound.
2. Merge onto I-205 southbound.
3. Merge onto I-84 westbound.
4. Follow I-84 westbound directions.

### Parking

Ample parking is available. The posted \$5 parking fee does not apply to preregistered groups; however, groups planning to park non-school bus vehicles in the OMSI lot must register their parking spaces using the form included in the confirmation packet or at the museum front desk.



## USS Blueback Group Submarine Tours

Thank you for scheduling a tour of the USS Blueback submarine. Due to the unique nature of this exhibit, we ask that you read the following information and guidelines in order to make your tour fun, educational, and safe.

- Groups of up to 14 people will be accommodated at a time. More than one tour time can be booked for groups larger than 14.
- In general each group will spend roughly 40 minutes on the sub. Tour guides will be stationed at several points along the way to answer questions.
- Fire codes prohibit admission to the submarine for children under 3 years old and less than 36" tall.
- Narrow passageways and steep stairs make it necessary for visitors to have good mobility and to wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Strollers, walkers, canes, and wheelchairs are not permitted on the submarine. Emergency escape routes via vertical ladders prevent disabled access beyond the public dock. OMSI offers a video for visitors who are unable to board the submarine.
- Visitors will go through two doorways as small as 20" x 37". Each visitor must be able to pass through a model doorway unassisted before being allowed on the submarine. Be aware that some people may find the confined spaces aboard this vessel unsettling.
- Food, beverages, gum, and smoking are not allowed on the submarine.
- There are no public restrooms available on the submarine.

# OMSI Group Parking Registration Form

Thank you for bringing your group to visit OMSI! While OMSI does not require preregistered groups to pay for parking, we do require groups to register their parking spaces with us upon arrival. Please use this form to register your parking spaces by listing the spaces your group has used and submit it at the Groups Check In Window. Any vehicles in your group not included on this form will need to register individually at the museum front desk.

Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Visit: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Vehicles: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the parking spaces used by your group:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____