

Dear Group Chaperone:

Thank you for volunteering to help your school group enjoy the University of Michigan Museum of Natural History! Your help is greatly appreciated.

Here are some tips to make your visit more enjoyable:

1. **Please give your group your full attention.** Please remain off your cell phones and avoid reading materials such as newspapers and books. Stay with your group at all times, especially during self-guided time when docents are not accompanying you.
2. **Make sure the students understand the day's plan.** Both children and adults should know the logistics of their visit. This includes what's coming next, what time lunch will be, where bathrooms are located, and when they will be returning home.
3. **Let your group have fun!** Museums get children excited about learning and it is okay for them to be excited and animated. Excitement, exploration, discovery, and discussion are encouraged by the museum staff.
4. **Let the kids lead the way!** Explore a gallery casually first before focusing on one specific object. Find the things that interest your group, even if they are not a part of your plan. Scavenger hunts and school assignments are meant to aid in learning and conversation, and they can often be done in any order.
5. **Ask a lot of questions!** While you may not know a great deal about the exhibits, you can help your group learn about them by asking questions. Good questions include: If you could take home one thing from the museum what would it be and why? How does that make you feel? What do you see here? How many ___ do you see? Can you find the ___?

Use positive behavior guidelines and give reasons for them. Avoid endless strings of don'ts. Here are some recommended guidelines:

- *Please remember to walk slowly in the museum.* It helps prevent accidents and allows you to see more exhibits.
- *Please use your quieter voices.* I know the museum is exciting, but it is important to be considerate of the other visitors as well as the scientists who are hard at work.
- *You can touch objects that are not behind glass or a barrier.* And we have "Please Touch" signs throughout the galleries to help you know what you can touch.
- *Please stay with me.* If I can't see you, I worry that you're lost.
- *Please wait until after you leave the museum galleries to eat your lunch or snacks.* Food attracts insects that can damage the exhibits.

Finally, it is important to remember the number one rule of the museum, to have fun!