

A Social Guide for a Field Trip Visit to the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum



Introduction

The Nature Museum is a place where we can learn about nature and science! There are outdoor nature trails, and indoor exhibits that have live animals, art, preserved specimens, playrooms, and more.

We can read this story to get ready for our visit.

We will learn how to enter the museum, how to move around the building, how we stay safe when we visit, and where we can go if we need help during our visit.

Starting Our Field Trip



Lou on a bus /
getting on a bus

When we arrive at the Nature Museum, a staff member will greet us outside and share some important rules to stay safe while we have fun.

If we took a bus to get to the museum, the staff member may get on our bus to share the information. We will listen carefully while the staff member is talking to us.

Once we have learned how to stay safe, we can go inside the museum. On our way inside, we will walk past lots of plants and maybe some animals too. We can walk through the doors to get into the lobby

While we visit the Nature Museum...

1. We use walking feet
2. We use inside voices
3. We stay together
4. In the Butterfly Haven exhibit, we look with our eyes and don't touch with our hands.

The Lobby

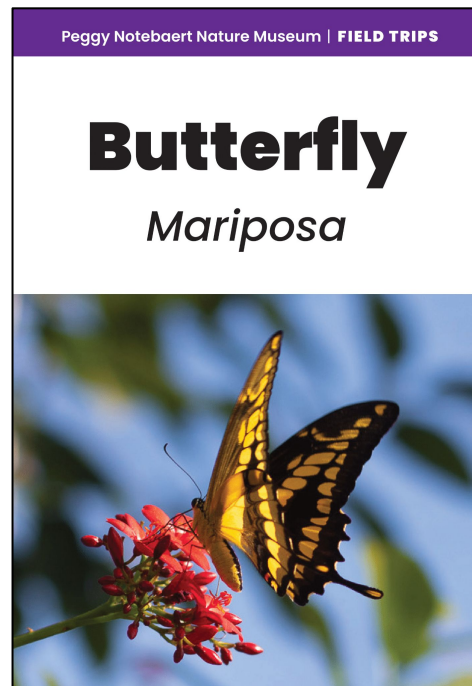
When we walk through the front doors we will be in the lobby. There might be a lot of people in the lobby, or it might be noisy. This is okay, there are other places in the museum that will be quieter.



In the Lobby

Museum staff members will tell us to line up behind a sign with an animal on it. We will wait patiently behind the sign until it is our turn to go to the next place.

By the sign, there is a black bin where we can put our lunches. The workers will bring our lunches to the lunchroom for us.



Coat Check Lockers

If we brought coats or backpacks with us, we can store them in a locker. A museum worker will lead our group down the hallway to a locker. The locker doors can be loud when they open and close, this is okay. There are other places in the museum that will be quieter.



Coat Check and Sensory Backpack

We can borrow a sensory backpack from the coat check window. Inside the backpack, we can find fidget toys, noise cancelling headphones, take a break books, and a turtle plush.

We can use the backpack for my whole visit.



Sound & Light Sensitivity



noise reduction
headphones



sunglasses

Comfort



take-a-break books

Calm & Concentration

magic ball
stress-reliever
twelve-sided tactile
and logic game sphere



turtle plush

Fidget Toys | bend them, fold them, squish them, stretch them



squishies



marble fidgets



fun noodles

Helpful People at the Museum

There are lots of people at the museum who can help us if we need something. Everyone is friendly, kind, and happy to meet us.

If we have questions, we can ask a Guest Experience Associate, a volunteer, or a security guard. They will help us find an answer.

If we can't find our friends, all of these people can help us find them.



Getting Around the Museum

There are lots of indoor exhibits on the first and second floors of the museum. The third floor has one outdoor exhibit.

We can use the stairs to get to the second floor, or the elevator to get to the second and third floors.



If we need to sit down and eat before or after our lunchtime, we can sit and eat at the tables in the lobby.

We can also sit outside in the Ravine if the weather is nice.

Taking a Quiet Break

If we need a quiet place to take a break, that is okay. We can ask the front desk for help. A worker can let us into the private Quiet Room if it is available. We can use the quiet room as long as we need to.

In the Quiet Room, there is a couch, a chair, a desk, noise cancelling headphones, books, and more.



The Butterfly Haven

One exhibit we can go to is called the Butterfly Haven. This exhibit is a room made of windows that has lots plants, a waterfall, small birds, and over 1000 butterflies from all over the world.

Some people work in the Butterfly Haven. They are there to make sure butterflies do not escape the exhibit. One of these workers is right by the entrance. I can say hi.



The Butterfly Haven

Butterflies might fly close to us, or even land on us. That is okay, butterflies cannot hurt us at all, but it might tickle a little if they land on us.

If we do not want a butterfly on us, we can gently shake our bodies so the butterfly flies away. Butterflies are very delicate, so we should not try to touch them.



The Butterfly Haven

When we are ready to leave the Butterfly Haven, another worker at the exit might ask us to look in the mirror to make sure we don't have any butterflies on us. They also may look in our bag, just to be sure butterflies aren't hiding inside.



Leaving the Museum

When it is time to leave the museum, we can exit out the door we entered through in the lobby.



We will be sure to pick up our coats and bags if we left them at coat check, or drop off the sensory backpack if we borrowed one. We may have to wait in line at coat check

Leaving the Museum



Some people like to visit the Nature Museum all day, and some people like to visit for a short time. Both are good visits. The most important thing is that we enjoyed our time at the Nature Museum.