

Night Journey Chaperone Information Sheet

Please distribute to all families and chaperones.

Before your overnight...

We suggest that adults in your group share cell phone numbers in advance of your Night Journey – that way you'll be able to reach someone in your group in case anything unexpected comes up.

Getting Ready 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: Toy weapons, pets, alcohol, tobacco, fireworks, firearms, other weapons, or restricted substances.

Bring or buy your dinner. For dinner, we suggest you eat in advance, bring your favorite picnic, or have food delivered by a local eatery. Our Snack Area has plenty of seating and there is a selection of beverages, snacks, and meal items available from our vending machines. Staff and guests frequently order pizza from these places:

[Road Runner](#) delivery: 508-797-0314

[George's Pizza II](#) delivery: 508-799-4999

Please arrange for delivery by 6:15 pm so you'll be able to enjoy your dinner before your program begins at 7 pm. Please be sure to arrive before your food order is delivered and make sure the delivery person has your phone number for easy of delivery. Night Journey staff will direct deliveries to the information desk on the Upper Level of the museum. Food and beverages are not allowed anywhere else in the museum during your stay.

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. **Check-in begins at 6 pm** for Night Journey guests. The group leader should coordinate with the Night Journey staff at your check-in location to confirm attendance numbers and trouble-shoot late arrivals. Those who arrive at 6 will have plenty of time to check in, eat, and get ready for the start of the program at 7 p.m. Additionally, **6 – 7 pm is the best time for your group to explore the museum**, since most of your overnight visit will be focused on our special themed overnight programming. Our **gates will close at 7 pm** when the program starts. **Guests who are running late will notify their group leader before 7 pm** of their new arrival time so that staff can plan accordingly. Please do not attempt to call the EcoTarium if you are running late, since our switchboard is only open 10 am – 5 pm.

During your overnight...

Sharing the Museum We will accommodate no more than two private overnight groups per night, with up to 120 total guests. Your group's schedule, programming, staff, and sleeping areas are tailored according to your group's size and theme choice. This means you may see another group while you are in the planetarium show or exploring the museum, but your group activities are just for you!

Program Schedule Around 7 pm, when your group is all checked in, staff will review your schedule for the evening with your group and make sure everyone knows what to expect. Workshops, activities, and shows are scheduled until about 10:30 pm and will relate to your chosen theme for the night whenever possible. A Night Journey is an exciting way to experience what the EcoTarium is all about; however, since much of our time together is spent engaging in special themed programming, there is always more to explore. Therefore, every overnight guest will receive **a free return admission pass** so that they may come back another day and continue to enjoy our extensive exhibits, animals, and grounds at their leisure.

Museum Shop The Museum Shop offers a selection of gifts for all ages, interests, and budgets. During your overnight, time will be allotted to browse and purchase a memento of your visit.

Food Healthy snacks will be provided for your group around 8:30 pm. Snacks may include Nutri-Grain bars, fruit, animal crackers, and water. A continental breakfast is served at 6:15 am. Breakfast may include cereal, instant oatmeal, fruit, muffins, bagels, coffee, and juice. Concerned guests with dietary restrictions are encouraged to contact the overnight program coordinator in advance and bring supplementary food items as desired.

Sleeping Arrangements Sleeping areas will be among the exhibits on the museum floor unless otherwise requested by your group leader. For safety reasons, youth must sleep within sight of their guardians and a few lights will be left on at all times.

Bedtime Bedtime is between 10:30 and 11 pm, depending upon the activities and flow of the evening. Once programming has ended, group leaders will be responsible for dictating the bedtime behavior of their group. If sharing the museum with another group, quiet hours begin at lights-out and should be taken seriously out of respect for other guests.

Morning Routine Morning wake-up is at 6 am. Please bring your overnight gear to your car before eating breakfast, which will be available from 6:15 until 7 am. Morning programming begins at 7 am.

Fri-Sat Overnight: Programming ends at 8 am. Guests are expected to depart by 8:15 am.

Sat-Sun Overnight: Programming ends at 10 am. Guests are expected to depart by 10:15 am.

Please Be Aware that:

- **Children must be chaperoned at all times by an adult.**
- 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 products, consumption of alcohol, and use of non-prescription drugs is prohibited on EcoTarium property.
- Guests should refrain from exiting the building without explicit staff permission during your stay 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.