



Visiting the Montshire

Group Leader Checklist – Spring/Summer 2021

We are delighted that you have chosen the Montshire for a group visit. The Montshire is open for indoor and outdoor explorations and adventures. Your group will get to experiment, observe, ask questions, and explore a variety of scientific phenomena.

To ensure that your visit meets your expectations as well as ours, please refer to the following checklist and share pertinent points with your group.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Review Montshire Visitor Guidelines:

- Visitors must show no symptoms of illness. For the safety of other visitors and staff, people who are showing symptoms of illness should not enter the Montshire building or grounds.
- Review the Museum website, www.montshire.org, for information on our visitor policies, based on Vermont's latest cross state travel rules and regulations. This information may affect your visit.
- The Montshire requires visitors to wear a face covering or mask when inside the building. The State of Vermont requires face masks in public spaces (indoors or outdoors), any time it is not possible to keep a 6-foot distance from others who are not part of your household, including Museum staff and other visitors.
- All visitors must wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon entry.
- All children must stay with adults at all times. Limit of one visitor group per exhibit.

Chaperones:

We require one chaperone for every four children so that smaller subgroups of five people can be formed. Each subgroup will navigate the Museum separately, beginning their visit in one of six different exhibit areas: first floor galleries, second floor galleries, *David Goudy Science Park*, Hughes Pavilion, *The Play Grove*, the nature trails.

- Complete a ***Chaperone Information Sheet*** for each chaperone and provide each chaperone with a copy before your visit to the Montshire. Make sure chaperones review their information and are aware of the guidelines and their responsibilities in supervising children.

Children:

- Review behavioral expectations with the group.
- Provide name tags for everyone to wear during their visit with your group's name.

Museum Store:

- Children must be accompanied by a chaperone when shopping in the Museum Store. Vermont has a 6% sales tax. Chaperones should stagger their group's time in the store due to limited capacity. The store carries many amenities such as bottled water, towels, and snacks.

Lunch:

- ❑ Everyone must bring their own lunch. Please plan on eating outside or on the bus/in your vehicle.

Reservation changes:

- ❑ If you need to make any changes to your reservation, please call the Montshire at 802-649-2200. We are holding this time for your group, so please let us know if it can be made available to others.

Payment:

- ❑ Payment will be made when you arrive at the Museum for your visit. Payment may be made by credit card (preferred), check, or cash. If you have arranged to be invoiced, we will do so the following business day.

UPON ARRIVAL

- ❑ **Checking in:** Have the bus driver follow signs in the parking lot to the bus drop off area. If arriving by van or personal vehicles, please park in the main parking lot. While the group waits outside, the group leader should check in at the Admission Desk and make payment.
- ❑ **Bus drop-off and parking:** Buses should proceed through the parking lot to the bus drop-off area and wait for an explainer to greet the group. The circle is not designed for buses. Bus parking is at the far end of the lot. Bus drivers may enter the Montshire for free.
- ❑ **Greeting:** A Museum Explainer will greet your group outside the building to review expectations and highlight special events and exhibits currently at the Montshire. After the greeting, your group is ready to enter the Museum.

DURING YOUR VISIT

- ❑ **Explainers:** Museum Explainers wearing red Montshire aprons will be on hand throughout your visit to help people engage with the exhibits and to facilitate informal science learning programs. Our Explainers enjoy working with visitors and can answer questions, though they do not provide guided tours.
- ❑ **Outdoor Spaces:** *David Goudy Science Park* includes exhibits on water, wind, sound, natural history and daytime astronomy. There is a series of [nature trails](#) that vary in distance and difficulty. The *Play Grove* is a nature play area along the River Loop Trail. (Note: The water features in *Science Park* are seasonal and weather dependent; generally available from May through mid-October. Please have children dress accordingly as they can get wet).
- ❑ **Indoor Spaces:** [Indoor exhibits](#) engage visitors in both the natural and physical sciences. The first floor gallery features Allosaurus casts (opens May 29, part of *Summer of Dinosaurs*), *Bubbles: Science in Soap*, and *Discovering the Natural World*. Second floor galleries include *Air Works*, *The Light Around Us*, and *Tiny Titans* (opens May 29, part of *Summer of Dinosaurs*).

Montshire's Photo Policy:

Montshire personnel may photograph members of your groups during their visit for use on our website and electronic and print promotional materials. If you or anyone in your group do not wish to be photographed, please inform a member of the Museum's staff.

TIPS FOR YOUR VISIT

Expectations for All Visitors:

- Have fun exploring and experimenting.
- Treat the exhibits and other visitors with respect. Maintain 6-foot social distancing.
- Enjoy a picnic lunch outside. Eating and drinking are not permitted inside the Museum building.
- Recognize that our visitors range in age from babies to grandparents, and they all want to explore our exhibits in a safe environment. Be sure your group members respect everyone's experience.
- Share your discoveries with a friend and help each other enjoy the Montshire.
- Stay together in your subgroup to maximize safety and FUN.

Tips for First-Time Visitors:

- Check out our current exhibits and find out about the activities scheduled for the day.
- Go outdoors and explore the trails, with trailside exhibits. Stop by *Woodland Garden*, *David Goudy Science Park*, the *Play Grove*, or *Planet Walk*, a walking tour of the solar system.
- Remember to check for ticks after walking the trails.
- For groups with children five and under, Wonder Woods is a great place to start your visit.
- If you have questions or need assistance, look for a Montshire Explainer (wearing red aprons), or anyone with a Montshire nametag. We're here to help!
- Before you leave, visit the Museum Store for an outstanding selection of books, science kits, toys, gifts, and more.
- Use the Visitor Guide to help you find your way around the Montshire.

What to Bring:

- During warm months, swimsuit, water shoes, sunscreen, and a towel for the water exhibits in Science Park (late spring through early fall).
- Comfortable walking shoes (or boots in the winter) for the trails.
- A camera for the many great photo opportunities.
- Binoculars for observing birds and wildlife.
- Snacks and lunch if you wish to picnic. Visitors are welcome to eat and drink outside the Montshire building. Eating and drinking are not permitted inside the Museum building.

Thank you for choosing the Montshire as a destination for your group!