



Museum Guidelines and Manners for Visiting Student Groups

A field trip to the *National Museum of the Marine Corps* should be a fun and educational experience for students and teachers alike. One of the ways to ensure a positive experience is to practice proper etiquette. The following practical advice is applicable for both novice and experienced museum visitors.

1. Artifacts and art on display are not to be touched, unless specifically stated otherwise by museum staff. There is no climbing or sitting on artifacts, both for the visitor's safety and for the protection of the artifacts. While many of our exhibits are interactive, the museum is not an amusement park.
2. Do not loiter around or inside the Museum Store. Up to 20 students at a time may enter the store, and then rotate out to make room for others. Chaperones must accompany students in the store. Shopping is also available on the web at http://www.marineheritage.org/Store_index.asp.
3. The group leader and chaperones are responsible for keeping their students together and for maintaining proper behavior. We recommend at least one (1) chaperone for every ten (10) students. The following behaviors will not be tolerated: **loud talking and shouting; running; misuse of museum artifacts; disrespecting museum staff, group leaders, and chaperones; any inconsiderate actions that disrupt the experience of others.**
4. The museum staff is not responsible for monitoring the behavior of students. If a staff member must intervene, the museum reserves the right to ask the entire group to leave the museum.

Please remind students that...

- It is acceptable to talk quietly about the objects on display; however, shouting is unacceptable. Many museum guests are military veterans who find their visit to be an emotional experience. Please respect other museum visitors at all times.
- No food, drink, or gum is allowed in the museum galleries. If students bring their own bag lunches, these must be eaten outside the museum. The Mess Hall accommodates student groups only by prior reservation.
- Cameras are permitted, but flash photography is restricted in some areas of the museum.
- Backpacks, large purses, and similar items should be left on the bus or at school.
- Artifacts in the museum are important reminders of Marine Corps history. Many of them are invaluable. If visitors mistreat these artifacts, they can be damaged. However, some displays CAN be touched. These items will be clearly marked. There is also a special collection of "hands on" artifacts that may be shared with groups who make arrangements in advance.
- Museum staff members are here to help students make the most of their visit. Our docents are very knowledgeable but they may not tell you everything there is to know about a particular exhibit. If you are curious about something, please ask.

Encourage your students to be engaged and respectful visitors. But most importantly, encourage them to have fun! We hope that you will return to visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps, invite our museum educators into your classroom, or attend one of our teacher workshops.