



Night Journey Information Sheet

Thank you for registering for a Night Journey Program at the EcoTarium. This is intended as a guide to facilitate your upcoming overnight museum adventure. It includes important information that ***you should share with the other chaperones*** that will be attending the Night Journey. If you have questions you can contact the Night Journey Manager at (508) 929-2742 or by email at pfields@ecotarium.org. We are looking forward to your upcoming visit.

Some things to remember for your Night Journey:

Choosing a theme

We offer four exciting thematic program choices, designed to educate, engage and entertain science-minded individuals aged six and older. It is important that you pick your theme early. Choosing a theme at least one month in advance gives staff a chance to prepare a dynamic program for your group. If you are the member of a scout group, we can also offer badge work. Please contact the Night Journey manager to discuss your badge work requirements.

Arrival time

If you are bringing your own dinner, ***plan to arrive between 6:00 and 6:15 pm*** on your scheduled night. ***If you are not planning on eating dinner, then please arrive at 6:30. Please do not plan on arriving any earlier than 6:00 pm*** – overnight staff is limited in time to set up your evening activities and will not be able to accommodate early arrivers. Upon arrival, please have the group leader check in with the senior staff member that evening so we can introduce ourselves and let you know the schedule for the evening. The grounds will be closed to the public when you arrive. The program will not begin until the museum's gate is locked for the night. We will plan on starting the program at 7:00 pm. At the scheduled start time, the school or scout group leader may decide to either wait for participants who are late, or to start without them. Once the program begins, guests cannot enter the EcoTarium grounds.

Food service

The EcoTarium is not equipped to provide food service. *You are responsible for providing dinner, drinks and snacks.* If you do not want to bring food, our cafeteria offers a wide variety of vending machines. You can also have food delivered by a number of local eateries.

- Road Runner 508-797-0314
- George's Pizza II 508-799-4999
- Papa Gino's 508-792-9313
- Papa John's 508-754-5200
- **Subway 774-230-7935 (Grafton St.) Ask for Susan and mention the word, EcoTarium group and she will give you a complete dinner or lunch for \$4.99.**

Please have ***all food delivered by 6:15 pm.*** Be sure to let the Night Journey staff know that you are expecting food to be delivered so there can be someone waiting for it at the entrance. The overnight staff can also make coffee or tea for any of the parents as long as it is before 6:45 pm. Please leave all food in the "Food for Thought Café" which is located on the middle level of the museum. This is where all the meals will take place. Drinks or snacks are not allowed anywhere else in the museum. We appreciate your cooperation. The following morning continental breakfast will be served at 6:30 am.

Sharing the museum

Please note that your group may not be the only group in the museum; we will take reservations for up to two groups per night. Each group must have a minimum of 28 people and the two groups combined can not exceed 100 people total. Night Journey staff, programs, activities, and eating and sleeping areas are not shared between the groups. (*) The only time that groups may be combined is during the planetarium show.

Astronomy theme: Sharing the Planetarium (*)

If there happen to be two groups in the museum and they both doing the Astronomy theme, due to the fact that we only have one Planetarium, please beware that both groups may be together at the same time. If you do not wish to be together with another group, please request a different theme than the other group, at the time of your reservation. Thanks for your cooperation.

What to do upon arrival

We're a hands-on museum. We feel your visit should be an adventure in exploration, not a guided tour. The EcoTarium has three levels of exhibits to explore. Feel free to take a map from the front desk. Chaperones are responsible for the children during their free time. Please be sure that no one is running or using "roller shoes".

Animal handling

In order to protect the welfare of the animals at the EcoTarium, ***touching of the animals will not be allowed.*** Based on the daily health situation of the animals, we will not be able to guarantee a specific type of animal to be present during your Night Journey. We are sorry if this causes a problem.

Sleeping arrangements

Around 9:00 pm, sleeping areas will be designated. Groups will sleep on the museum floor. There are three designated areas in the museum that we try to utilize and two of these rooms are carpeted. Participants can bring air mattresses, though any larger than twin size must be shared between two people due to space issues. Although we would love to provide air mattresses to you, this is not feasible at this time. Come prepared with pajamas, sleeping bags, pillows, toothbrush and flashlights. For safety reasons, some lights must be left on at all times, even during sleeping hours. If you or your group anticipate this being an issue, we suggest you bring light blocking sleep masks. The overnight staff does *not* have control of the temperature in the building. There are bathrooms and sinks, but no showers.

Bedtime

Due to the evening activities, bedtime is usually around 10:30 or 11:00 pm. If the group arrives late then that pushes back the activities and may require a later bedtime. In such a situation, it will be up to the group leader to determine if the evening programs should be shortened or to push back the bedtime to a later time. Because this is a special treat for your group, we encourage normally early bed timers to take a nap before attending or help yourself to a cup of coffee before the program begins at 7:00 pm.

Morning animal tour

After the continental breakfast, you will be able to see the animals in our outdoor exhibit area, ***so please dress warmly!***

Departure time

The Program will end at 8:00 am. Groups are expected to exit the museum grounds no later than 8:30 am, unless prior special arrangements have been made for your group to stay. **Note:** An extra charge may apply if a group decides to add day programs before or after their overnight experience. We ask that all belongings be stored in your cars between 8:30 am and 6:15 pm.

Emergency contact information

In the event of an emergency, please call your Night Journey leader on his/her cell phone. S/he should give his/her cell phone number to you prior to the visit. This cell phone number should also be used to contact the leader in case you are running late to ensure that you are able to enter through the museum's gate. The museum is closed to the public and the staff may not be able to answer the museum's phone. Therefore, it is probably best that you call your Night Journey leader's cell phone.

Chaperone information and responsibilities

Guests must be chaperoned at all times by an adult, one adult per every ten children. Permission to leave the building is required by the Night Journey staff. The leader, parent or guardian agrees to assume all responsibility for any injury to persons attending the overnight. The leader or parent also agrees to accept all loss of property and responsibility for damage to the EcoTarium and its contents caused by anyone of this group. Smoking is prohibited in the building. Please do not drink alcohol on EcoTarium property. The Night Journey senior staff has the authority to ask anyone intoxicated, upon arrival or during a Night Journey program, to leave the building. Please do not use non-prescription drugs while on EcoTarium property. Please call ahead to notify Night Journey staff of any prescription medications.

Please pass this, "Parent info sheet" out to all the adults in your group. Thank you for your cooperation in trying to make your Night Journey experience the best experience possible!

