

An Educator's Guide to the MOST*

This guide is intended to give interested educators an overview of how they might best utilize the MOST.

How to Book a Group at the MOST

Group booking is handled through Kelly Gardner (kgardner@most.org or x2141). She will ask about the number of students and adults in your group, when you are arriving and departing, what activities you are interested in, and if you want a lunch room. Pricing and additional information is listed on our website in the Group Visits page, located in the dropdown menu under Museum Information.

We Recommend a Free Planning Visit

Teachers who have booked a group can come to the MOST for a free look at our exhibits. (Planetarium and IMAX shows are not included.) Our experience is that groups with an agenda are more focused on learning. The MOST will schedule when your group can use the playhouse, planetarium, lunch room, etc., but you decide what to do with the rest of your time.

How Much Time to Spend at the MOST

An hour and a half is usually enough time for a group to see the exhibits (including the Science Playhouse). An additional hour is needed for an IMAX film, a half hour for lunch, and a half hour for a Planetarium show. Time needed for additional special programs can be determined in consultation with the education staff.

When Your Group Arrives

When you arrive on site a staff member is usually waiting to greet you. The Greeter will also direct bus drivers to appropriate parking spaces. If you come on a bus, please keep your students on the bus until a MOST staff member can greet the group and give the leader a copy of their schedule. If your group is running late and in danger of missing their scheduled IMAX, a staff member will properly greet you after the IMAX, before you enter the exhibit halls. Our greetings include an explanation of the museum rules, a review of the major exhibits and where to find them, and a look at your schedule. *Schedules are made by the museum to accommodate the needs of many groups.* Someone from your group will need to sign in at the admissions desk.

What Your Chaperones Should Know

Chaperones are responsible for the group's behavior and students must be accompanied by chaperones at all times. Our Curriculum Project section in the Educator's Toolbox has a downloadable PDF document for chaperones explaining how to interact with students when working on our activity sheets. More information on Chaperones can be found on our *Group Visits* page, located in the dropdown menu under Museum Information.

What Your Students Should Know

All students are expected to stay with their chaperones. They must treat the museum property, employees, and other visitors with respect. Running, roughhousing, eating, drinking, and chewing gum in the exhibit halls are prohibited. Students should bring socks to wear in the playhouse. Our *Curriculum Project* page, located in the Educator's Toolbox, has a downloadable PDF document for students to help them stay organized during their trip.

Student Volunteering

The MOST has volunteer positions in our education department for all ages. Volunteers help our museum achieve its goals. Your students can assist our education staff in the exhibit halls and even perform demonstrations. Most ages are welcome (our youngest was 6 years old), but volunteers under the age of 15 must be accompanied by an adult. All volunteers are expected to give a minimum of 30 volunteer hours to the museum per semester. Applications are online on our volunteer page.

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Extra Activities and Programs for Group Visits

Science Playhouse

Groups are given an assigned time slot (15-20 min) to explore the Science Playhouse. Groups who don't want this time should let the museum know beforehand. Limited playhouse time allows students to have fun in the structure, but ensures that they also discover our other exhibits. Everyone inside the playhouse needs to wear socks. Chaperones are required in the playhouse. Students need to be careful of other guests, including very young children, who may also be in the playhouse.

Free with admission.

Live Planetarium Shows

Schools may order shows in advance. Planetarium shows focus on seasonal constellations and navigating the night sky. Lasting 15-20 minutes, the style and length of our performances are tailored to your age group. Longer or custom shows may also be requested or teachers can select from a list of special shows. For a list of available special shows visit the *Private Planetarium Shows for Groups* link inside the planetarium shows section of our website. All planetarium shows are live and students are invited to ask questions. Our planetarium holds 50 visitors at a time. Larger groups may need to book multiple shows. Find group rates on our *Group Visits* page, found in the Museum Information dropdown menu.

Bristol IMAX® Omnitheater

An experience unlike anything else. We play mostly educational films on our special domed screen, which run about 45 minutes. We request a two week advance booking for archived films not currently in our listing. When choosing an IMAX time, be careful about films that start soon after your arrival. If your buses are late, it could mean missing your film. Groups have assigned seating and are seated before the general public. Your group will be called to the theater 15 minutes before it starts to give your group priority seating and to assure your group is seated together. This is especially important when we have multiple groups and general public at the same show. Please let us know in advance if you will need special accommodations for wheelchairs or people of limited mobility. Find group rates on our *Group Visits* page, found in the Museum Information dropdown menu.

Science Demonstrations

Our staff sometimes performs 15-minute live science demonstrations on our small stage near the IMAX theater lobby. Your students are welcome to join us for these public shows. Demonstration topics include liquid nitrogen, polymers, sound and other science topics. Animal demonstrations include a chance to meet the museum's python, slider turtle, or cockroaches. Education staff will try to honor advance requests for demonstrations. *Free with admission.*

Educational Programs

The MOST offers additional in-house programming from our Education Department staff. Please see our *Traveling Science Programs* section, in the Educator's Toolbox, to learn about these programs. All traveling programs can also be booked at the museum.

Camp-ins

For the truly adventurous, the MOST offers overnights at the museum. We provide a program that includes demonstrations, inquiry based activities, planetarium shows, an evening snack, breakfast and exhibit hall time. An IMAX movie may also be scheduled. Overnights are popular for scouting groups looking to earn science badges. *For more information call Betty at (315) 425-9068 x2143.*

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Educator Resources

IMAX Teachers Guides

IMAX guides are a unique way to get more out of your group's IMAX viewing. Utilize the guide's tips, facts or other activities to learn more about the film's message and enhance the educational component. Many of our films have guides which can be found in the *IMAX Teachers Guides* section in the Educator's Toolbox.

MOST Exhibit Curriculum

One of the exciting components of our Education program is our MOST Exhibit Curriculum. In order to enhance the depth and breadth of your group's educational experience, we offer a series of modules to accompany our exhibits. The modules include pre-visit activities, during activities, and post-visit activities. The valuable resources assist in tripling the impact of science education on your group. Each activity of the curriculum is a downloadable PDF document. The MOST Exhibit Curriculum can be found on the *Education Curriculum Project* page in the Educator's Toolbox.

Workshops for Educators and Parents

The MOST sometimes runs workshops for educators and/or parents. These workshops are intended to give educators and parents ideas and skills to use at school or at home. They are a great way to preview our programs and to learn effective science teaching strategies. These workshops can sometimes be customized and ordered for your school or parent group.

The MOST's Mission and Commitment

Our vision is to be a pre-eminent science and technology center, inspiring all generations through hands-on education and entertainment. With our exhibits, demonstrations, workshops, classes, planetarium shows, special events, and the Bristol IMAX, we really do have something for all ages. We are committed to fostering a lifelong love of science in the hearts of our CNY community and our friends from around the world.

MOST Information

Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology
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Education Department Quick Contacts

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