

Chaperone/Teacher Guide: Your Field Trip to Old Sturbridge Village

Frequently asked questions before you arrive...

What is my responsibility as a teacher/chaperone?

- As a chaperone, you are responsible for the behavior of the students in your group.
- Please stay with your students at all times and enter the buildings first, so our staff knows the students are accompanied by an adult.
- Keep an eye on your group- during the busy fall and spring visitation days there are often over 1,000 school visitors and it is easy to lose track of students.
- Model respectful museum behavior- ask questions of our staff, show respect for other visitors, be respectful of our buildings, animals, and spaces, throw trash away in appropriate receptacles, and be kind.

How do I get to the Village?

All school and youth groups enter through Museum Education Center entrance. It is located separately from the main Visitor Entrance. Click [here](#) to view a map.

Where can I park?

Limited free parking is available at Museum Education for buses and chaperone vehicles. Please carpool whenever possible as the lot can fill up quickly, especially during May and June. If the lot is full, you will be directed to park in the main visitor center lot, on the other side of the museum.

What do I wear?

The Village buildings and exhibits are connected by dirt road and spread over a large area. Students, teachers and chaperones should wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for the weather.

Is lunch space available?

Limited, non-refrigerated, sheltered lunch storage and eating space is available on a first come first served basis in the Lunch Room by the Museum Education Center. Outdoor picnic tables are available on a seasonal basis throughout the Village campus. Because storage space is limited, please consolidate lunches into boxes or large bags.

Is food available to purchase?

There are several [dining options](#) available at our museum. The Bullard Tavern Cafe and Village Café offer several seasonal selections. If you are interested in adding boxed lunches to your visit, please contact our catering sales department at (508) 347-0207 for menus. There is no food available for purchase at the Museum Education Center. **Please note:** Due to limited space, school groups are not allowed to dine in the Bullard Café unless purchasing food.

Where can I shop?

The Miner Grant Store in the Center Village offers fresh-baked goods and unique gifts in a country store setting. The Museum Store and New England Bookshop located near the Visitor Center, offer the most extensive selection of gifts, crafts, books and educational materials. Groups are welcome at each shop. During May and June the shops can get very busy with school groups which can result in long lines at the cash registers. Please plan accordingly to allow plenty of time if you plan on shopping.

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The day of your trip...

You are responsible for the behavior of the students in your group. You are representing your school and community while you are here. While exploring the Village, it is MANDATORY that you remain with your students at all times. Please enter the buildings first- this is a signal to our costumed historians that the students are supervised.

Please be kind to our animals. The animals that you will see today are working animals, not pets. Please make sure your students do not touch, feed, yell at, or chase any of the farm animals.

Use our Make History Guides! We have free, kid-friendly guides and maps available in the Museum Education Center for grades 3-5. They are a wonderful way to focus your students during the visit.

Respect our fences and buildings. You will see a variety of fences, stone walls, and buildings throughout our campus. While tempting to students, these structures are not safe for climbing, sitting, or leaning.

Respect other visitors. This includes other school groups and general, non-school audiences.

Pay attention to signage and barriers. In some spaces, mobility is restricted to protect our historic objects and exhibits. If you aren't sure if you can touch or if a space is accessible to visitors- just ask!

What if someone in my group gets hurt? First aid services are available at the Village's Security Office (marked on your Village map).

During our workshops, you may have a different role. If your group has signed up for a Make + Explore workshop in the Museum Education Center, the classroom teacher and 1 or 2 chaperones may be asked to help with the activities. If there are a number of chaperones in your group, some chaperones may be asked to take a break and have a coffee ☺ as space is limited. If you are present for a workshop, please refrain from talking to other chaperones, making cell phone calls, and other disruptive behavior that may distract the students from learning.

Photography and videos are allowed for personal use only. We do not allow selfie sticks or tripods for safety reasons and do not allow commercial use of any photographs you take at the Village.

OSV is a non-smoking campus. Please respect this policy.

Thank you for visiting! We appreciate our teacher and chaperones and hope you enjoy your day at the Village.