



## Guide for Parents and Caregivers: How to Get the Most Out of Your Village Experience

- Take your time while going through the Village.
- Certain times of year are busier than others here at the Village. During the spring, we have many school groups that visit for field trips during the week. Please feel free to contact us about this year's schedule to figure out what days and times might be better for your visit in order to avoid large crowds.
- Because of the age of the buildings at the Museum, many of the buildings have small hallways or rooms.
- Some of the buildings have interpreters—or costumed historians—to talk to. Other buildings do not.
- Always have an adult enter the buildings first when accompanied by children. This helps interpreters know that the child is with an adult.
- There are certain objects in the Village that can be handled or tried by visitors; be sure to ask interpreters which things you can touch!
- Make sure to check the day's map guide to see what is on the schedule for the day. You can find the schedule online here: <https://www.osv.org/events-experiences/calendar/>. It is subject to change.
  - There are some programs (such as musket firing demonstrations) that may be hard for those with hypersensitivity.
- There is a short video to watch at the Visitors Center. It will tell you a little bit about the Village before you start your visit. There are benches to sit on while you watch.
- The Village is a large place and can be overwhelming. Try some of the different routes outlined here to have a more focused experience.
- Feel free to bring a snack for your child to enjoy during their visit. While food and drinks are not allowed in exhibit buildings, there are many picnic tables and outdoor spaces to eat. There are also tables inside near the Village Café to sit and eat.
- Because Old Sturbridge Village is an outdoor museum, we are open during all sorts of weather. Make sure to prepare for different temperatures throughout the museum. You might need an umbrella or boots for a muddy day.
- The museum has security guards who can help you if you get lost or if there is an emergency. Their headquarters is located near the main parking lot.
- There are wheelchairs available at the main entrance. You may borrow these free of charge. Those who bring their own wheelchairs are given discounted admission.
- Please see our map to note which buildings are wheelchair accessible.

# Restrooms, Caution Areas, and Cool Down Zones

## Restroom Locations (all are wheelchair accessible)

- Museum Gift Shop
- Oliver Wight Tavern
- Visitors Center
- Bullard Tavern (upstairs and downstairs)
- Countryside (by the corner of Bixby House and the Blacksmith Shop)

## Caution Areas: areas to avoid in case of hypersensitivity

- Freeman Farm (farm animals, strong smells, lots of flies, far walking distance)
- Sawmill, Gristmill, and Carding Mill (loud sounds when operating)
- Blacksmith Shop, Tin Shop (loud hammering noises, flashing lights)
- Water Pump on Common (often large crowd, visitors may get wet)
- Woodland, River, and Pasture walks (lots of bugs, far walking distance)

## Cool Down Zones: quieter places in the Village you can go to cool down, rest, or get away from the crowds

- **Air Conditioned Spaces**
  - Visitor's Center
    - Clock Gallery and KidStory
  - *Armed and Equipped: Firearms and the Militia in New England, 1790–1840*
  - *A Child's World*
- **Un-Air Conditioned Spaces**
  - Early Lighting Exhibit (no seats)
  - The Glasshouse Gallery
- **Outside**
  - Woodland, River, and Pasture Walks
  - Herb Garden
  - Simple Machines

Questions? Please email Museum Education at [osved@osv.org](mailto:osved@osv.org) or call (508) 347-0287.