

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



Frequently Asked Questions

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.

Where does my group enter the Museum?

Most 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. At Museum Education, your bus (or buses) will be greeted by an OSV staff member. The lead teacher will enter the ticketing office inside Museum Education to pay for the visit, receive maps for the group's chaperones, and update the ticketing staff on your group's attendance number for the day.

Groups attending the Town Meeting or Abolition and Social Change programs will enter through the main Visitor Entrance. These groups will still be greeted and will provide final numbers and payment to the staff there.

How do I get to Museum Education?

Museum Education can be difficult to find if you have never been to this entrance. Click [here](#) to view a map that details how to get to Museum Education.

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. 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 Ox and Yoke gift shop, located at the Museum's main entrance, also has many wonderful gifts and toys. Groups are welcome at the gift shop; chaperones **must accompany students inside**. 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 you plan on shopping.

The day of your trip...

Your bus will be greeted by an OSV staff member who will welcome your group to the Museum and go over a few guidelines. On busy field trip visitation days, the greeting and disembarking process may take some time. Please do not allow the students to get off the bus until you have been greeted by a staff member and the bus has moved to a safe location.

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 historic buildings with your students: 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 and self-guided materials! 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. You can find them on our website [here](#).

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 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.

Tips for Students

- **Compare your life today to life almost 200 years ago.** Old Sturbridge Village depicts rural life in New England in the 1830s. The Museum features historic buildings, animals, nature trails, and costumed historians working on 19th-century chores and trades. As you walk around the Museum, think about how life in the 1830s compares to your life today. How is it similar? How is it different?
- **Please be kind to our animals.** The animals that you will see today are working animals, not pets. Please respect the animals and do not touch, feed, yell at, or chase them.
- **Respect our fences, artifacts, and buildings.** You will see a variety of fences, stone walls, and buildings throughout our campus. While they seem fun to climb on, the fences and walls are not always stable, so please do not climb, sit, or lean on them while you are in the Village. If you have food and drinks with you in the Museum, make sure to put it away before entering one of our historic buildings.
- **Respect other visitors.** On the day you visit, there might be students from other schools or people who are visiting who aren't part of a school group at all. Make sure to show these other visitors the same respect you show your teachers and classmates.
- **Talk to Museum staff.** While you're at the Village, you'll see Museum Educators in blue shirts and costumed historians wearing clothing from the early 1800s. They are modern people, just like you, who can help you understand the past and compare it to life in 2022. Make sure to ask them questions to learn more!
- **Pay attention to signage and barriers.** In some spaces, you will see ropes or barriers to protect our historic objects and exhibits. If you aren't sure if you can touch something or wonder if a space is accessible to visitors, just ask!

- **Stay with your chaperones.** Old Sturbridge Village is very big, and it is easy to get lost or separated from the rest of your group. As you walk around, make sure that you stay within sight of your group and chaperones, including when you enter Museum buildings.

Thank you for visiting! If you have any additional questions that are not answered by this document, please reach out to Museum Education at osved@osv.org or by calling (508) 347-0274.

We appreciate our teachers and chaperones and hope you enjoy your day at the Village.