

Education Programs at the American Philosophical Society Library & Museum

These programs are offered specifically to school groups visiting the APS.

General Information

Age: Grades five and above

Length: 30-45 minutes per program

Price: Students are \$2 each and teachers/chaperones are free

- Schools in the School Districts of Philadelphia and Camden are free and eligible for transportation reimbursement
- For non-school groups it is \$5/person

Group Size: at minimum five students, at maximum 20 students

- If your group is more than 20 students we are happy to discuss options for accommodating the group

Time Available for Guided Tours: Monday through Wednesday; May-December

Time Available for Lessons: Preferably Monday through Wednesday; all year

When to Book: At least two weeks in advance

Book Now! Start the process by filling out this survey:

<https://www.amphilsoc.org/tourrequest>

Questions? Email MuseumEducation@amphilsoc.org

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Guided Tours

Grades: 5 and above

The museum offers private tours of our annually changing exhibitions. These are available May through December, Monday-Wednesday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Tours offer students a chance to explore the stories and people behind the APS collections. (45 minutes)

Malignant Tale: A Yellow Fever Story

Grades: 5-8

Explore how early Americans in Philadelphia dealt with the dreaded yellow fever epidemic of 1793 in this interactive, hands-on program. Students will learn about the Wistar-Haines family and about how early American medicine did and did not help protect people from yellow fever. (45 minutes)

This program is also available through Historic Philadelphia, Inc. as part of a full day field trip. More information here: <http://www.historicphiladelphia.org/historic-philadelphia-group-information/field-trips-philadelphia/or/>.

Museum Planning: Creating an Exhibition

Grades: 9 and above

What goes into planning a museum exhibition? What are key questions to think of when planning one? Learn from the curators and educators who help put together exhibitions and create your own exhibition in this activity. (45 minutes)

Specialized Experiences

Grades: 9 and above

The APS also offers specialized experiences by working directly with you in constructing programs around what you are currently doing in the classroom. In the past, these have included chats with our Curatorial Fellows, tours of the Museum followed by debriefs, or combinations of our other programs. (45 minutes)

Questions? Email MuseumEducation@amphilsoc.org

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School Programs and Guided Tour FAQ

1.) When our group arrives what should we do?

Buses can leave the group off at the Fifth Street entrance just south of Chestnut Street, or at the Independence Visitor Center at Sixth and Market Street (where restrooms are available).

When you arrive at the Museum (104 South Fifth Street) please make sure your group is all together and then proceed to ring the doorbell located to the left of the door. An education staff member will be there to greet your group.

2.) Are restrooms available at the museum?

Public restrooms are not available. Prior to your arrival it is suggested that you stop at the Independence Visitor Center (located at Sixth and Market Street) to use the restrooms before your tour or program.

3.) Who do we contact if our group is running late?

Contact information will be emailed to you before your visit to the museum.

4.) How long are tours or programs?

Tours or programs are about 30-45 minutes long. If your group is over 20 students, plan on that time being doubled as we will need to split the group into appropriate sizes.



5.) What is not allowed in the exhibition?

Food or drink of any kind are not allowed in the exhibition. We also ask that large items, like school bags, are stored in the coat rack area and are not brought into the exhibition.

6.) Are you wheelchair accessible?

We are wheelchair accessible. A wheelchair lift (weight limit: 495 lbs.) is available to those who need assistance, but we do ask you to inform us of any accessibility needs prior to your arrival. We also provide other accessibility options. To learn more please inquire before your tour or program.

7.) What are the size restrictions for a group?

Our minimum for a group tour is five and our maximum is 20. If your group exceeds 20, let us know and we can discuss options and accommodations. Programs like the yellow fever and museum planning lessons can accommodate up to 40 students.

8.) When do you need payment and what do you accept?

Once confirmed, you will be emailed an invoice and your tour information. Groups can pay by check or cash the day of the tour. Please make your check out to the "American Philosophical Society" and place "Education Program" in the memo section. We only accept credit cards over the phone.

If you are visiting the APS from a Title I school or are from the School Districts of Philadelphia or Camden, we waive any fees. Please be sure to tell the staff member your school information before confirming other details. Schools from Philadelphia and Camden are also eligible for transportation reimbursement. Contact our staff to learn more about this.

9.) What are expectations for chaperones?

We ask that chaperones remain engaged in the program or tour and assist the APS staff in making sure students are paying attention.

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