



Rules for *Scout* Group Visits (2 pages)

HIGHLIGHTS

Visit Months

October 1 – May 31

Program Days Offered

Tuesday – Thursday

Program Length

Programs run 90 minutes in length from 3:45 – 5:15 pm

Chaperones & Other Visitors

Each Group must have 1 adult chaperone per 10 scouts – Up to a Total of 3 Chaperones per group are free of charge. (Older scouts who participate do not qualify as adult chaperones.)

Children other than the troop scouts cannot participant in the visit.

Visit Cost

\$15 per student - Up to a total of 3 Troop Leaders/Chaperones may accompany your group at no charge. Additional adults must pay admission fees.

Payment for Scout Visit is due to the Visitor Center Office no later than the time of Visit by check, cash, or credit card along with ‘The Hermitage Museum - Waiver of Liability-Hold Harmless Agreement’ form (one form per Scout Program Visit). If payment is mailed before time of visit, please mail payment to above address, along with ‘The Hermitage Museum – Waiver of Liability-Hold Harmless Agreement’ form, to the attention Chris Blaylock, Office Mgr

Arrival & Payment:

Plan to arrive at least 10-15 minutes before the start of your program. Upon arrival, Leaders should gather their scouts and chaperones at the Visitor Center. One Leader should report to the Hermitage Visitor Center Office with the exact number of scouts and adults in the group who will be participating in the program. And, to make payment for the visit at that time; no program will begin without payment.

Late Arrival, Delay, or Cancellation: IF you arrive late, The Hermitage makes every effort to accommodate late groups but reserves the right to adjust or shorten programs as circumstances demand. IF you anticipate a delay, or must cancel on the day of your visit, please call Ms. Chris Blaylock at the Visitor Center Office: 201-445-8311.

Split Groups: For large group visits, it may be necessary to split the large group into two or more sections. We will arrange this with you in advance. Please plan to divide your large group into smaller, similarly sized groups prior to your visit.

Food & Drink: Food is not available for sale on site. Food / Drink (including water) / Gum / Candy are **not** allowed outside of the designated lunch/snack area. If needed, snacks should be eaten prior to arrival. If food and beverages are required for your visit (eg. Victorian Manners Tea Program), the details will be reviewed prior to your Scout Visit.

Parking: Ample free parking is provided on the property for cars / vans / buses.

Supervision and Behavior: Scout Leaders and Adult Chaperones must supervise and chaperone scouts during the entire visit. Programs will be stopped and no refund will be given if scout behavior becomes disruptive or unsafe. Hermitage staff decisions on this matter are final.

Cell Phone Use: Students cannot use cell phones during the visit. **Chaperones should not use cell phones during the visit except in an emergency** – please set adult cell phones to mute/silence during programs so students can listen, participate, and learn without distraction, and please assist the Hermitage staff in supervising your students.

Historic House – ‘The Hermitage’ Historic House Rules – Please:

- 1) No Food or Drink (including water) allowed in the house.
- 2) No Photography, or Videoing, or Audio Recording inside the house – However, photos/videos can be taken outside the house or in the classrooms.
- 3) No Cell Phones – Scouts cannot carry cell phones. Adult cell phones can be muted/silenced and carried in the house, and only used in an emergency while touring the house.
- 4) At all times, Chaperones must assist the Tour Guides in chaperoning scouts.
- 5) No large bags (eg. book bags, back packs, etc.) are allowed in the house. All scout bags are securely kept in The Hermitage Educational and Conference Center.
- 6) Furnishings in the house are antiques so they cannot be touched or sat upon.
- 7) Care must be taken ascending & descending the stairs – allow a minimum of 2 steps behind the person in front of you.
- 8) In some rooms, museum rope stanchions are present to protect the furnishings – please do not wander beyond these stanchions.
- 9) So that all Scouts may listen and learn from the Tour Guide, please keep talking at a minimum

Visitors with Disabilities: Before your visit, please inform the Hermitage if any of your Scouts has a physical or mental impairment which would need to be accommodated. The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) states that “an individual with a disability is defined by the ADA as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment (www.ada.gov/resources/disability-rights-guide, 2023)”. The Hermitage Education & Conference Center is ADA compliant. The Hermitage, the historic house, is not completely ADA compliant as 2nd floor ADA access is not provided. This ADA access can be thoroughly discussed prior to your visit.

Gift Shop: The shop is not open to scout groups, so children do not need to carry money unless directed by their parent/guardian for other reasons.

Special Note: The Gardening Program requires all scouts to wear sneakers, have gardening gloves, and wear appropriate clothes; official scouting attire is not required for the Scout Gardening Program.

Weather – Closure - Dress: Scouts should dress for the weather, as most programs involve some walking outdoors. The Hermitage may close because of inclement weather (snow, ice, or other unsafe conditions). If closure is necessary, you will be contacted by a member of The Hermitage staff and your visit will be rescheduled. IF it is raining or cold on the day of your visit, we recommend dressing your scouts for the appropriate weather - boots, hats, raincoats, etc.

Scout Dress:

In the spirit of Scouting and with pride in scouting achievements, including official scout events and activities, scouts are encouraged to wear their grade-level appropriate official uniform, or their grade-level official uniform item, to represent their Troop while participating in The Hermitage Museum Scout Program (except for Gardening Programs).

Reserve your Scout Program: To ensure the date of your choice, please schedule in advance.

For Further Information – Questions – Concerns about your Visit:

Please contact: Ms. Chris Blaylock, Visitor Center Office Manager 201-445-8311 or cblaylock@thehermitage.org

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SPONSORING YOUR SCOUT GROUP VISIT TO THE HERMITAGE!

The Friends of the Hermitage offers tours of The Hermitage, exhibitions of the collections, and diverse educational programming at the Hermitage Education & Conference Center. The Friends received a General Operating Support Grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State.