

Home School Policies

Field Trip Reservations:

Individual

- Individual families with fewer than 20 students receive free general admission Monday through Friday except holiday periods. Parents receive free general admission as well.
- No advance registration is required.
- You will be asked to fill out a Free Admission slip at the ticket counter.
- Omnimax movies and special exhibits requiring an additional ticket are not offered at a discounted rate for individuals.

Group

- An Illinois home school group of 20 or more students will receive free general admission to the Museum and regular school group discounts for Omnimax movies and special exhibits.
- Advance reservations and payment are required.
- One contact person from your group should make a reservation online at www.msichicago.org or by calling (773) 684-1414. When making a reservation, know the number of children in your group, whether you are interested in a Learning Lab, Omnimax movie or special exhibit, preferred dates and times, and lunch plans.

Learning Lab Reservations:

Individual

- Individual home school students can sign up for special Learning Labs. Visit www.msichicago.org for dates and times.
- Advance payment is required.
- Call (773) 684-1414 to reserve a spot. There is a maximum of 20 students, and reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Note: Meet at the Information Desk on Main Level 2, near the top of the escalators, 15 minutes before your scheduled lab.

Group

- Group Learning Labs are offered during the regular school year from September to June.
- Minimum of 15 students and a maximum of 30 students per lab.
- Each lab is only \$100 for the entire group! (\$120 for special labs)
- Appropriate grade levels for each lab are listed on our website and Learning Lab Guides.
- Schedule a Learning Lab by making a reservation online at www.msichicago.org or by calling (773) 684-1414. Please have several dates in mind. Learning Labs must be booked at least one month in advance.

Lab Etiquette

- Parents and siblings are encouraged to walk around the Museum during the lab. The instructor will inform parents to report back to the lab 5 minutes before it is over.
- Please raise your hand if you wish to speak and remain quiet while instructor or other classmates are talking.
- Follow all directions and respect lab equipment.
- Have fun!

Arrival

- Plan to arrive at the Museum at least 30 minutes before any scheduled program.
- An individual or group who is pre-registered for a Learning Lab must meet at the Information Desk 15 minutes before your scheduled lab. The Information Desk is located on Main Level 2, near the top of the escalators.
- Parking is available in our convenient, underground garage. The entrance is located at the northwest corner of our building. Please check our website at www.msichicago.org for parking fees and information.
- You also can reach the Museum by public transportation. Visit our website for information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the Museum offer any programs or lab experiences for home school students?

Individual home school students can sign up for special Learning Labs. Visit www.msichicago.org for dates and times. In addition, there are several daily lab experiences and interactive demonstrations available for all Museum guests. To see what is offered, visit our website prior to your visit and when you arrive, check out the Live Science Experiences schedule on the Museum map.

If a parent or chaperone is a member of the Museum, does he or she have to pay the chaperone fee?

No. Just show your membership card and you will receive free general admission.

Do home school students need to verify they are home schooled in anyway?

No, you do not need identification of any kind. However, anyone not registered as a group with 20 more students will be asked to fill out a Free Admission slip at the ticket counter.

If I am an individual family or group who is coming to the Museum for any reason, where do I park?

Parking is available in our convenient, underground garage. The entrance is located at the northwest corner of our building.

Are home school policies and programs offered during summer months and holidays?

Individual and group policies are good on weekdays all year long, except during holiday periods. Learning Labs are offered during the regular school year from September to June.

Where do home school families and groups eat lunch?

If you are part of a pre-registered group, your group can reserve a lunch time in the student cafeteria. Anyone can eat in the Brain Food Court located on Lower Level 1.

Are there any evening or overnight programs offered at the Museum?

Home school groups of 10 or more may participate in the Snoozeum overnight program. Museum members can participate in the Member's Overnight and Member's Open House.

Questions:

Contact Dustin Axe at (773) 684-9844 Ext. 3132 or dustin.axe@msichicago.org with questions about home school policies or Learning Lab content.