

## Your Night Journey Information Sheet

Please distribute to all families and chaperones.

### Before your overnight...

We suggest sharing cell phone numbers in advance of your Night Journey – that way you'll be able to reach someone in your group in case anything unexpected comes up.

**Getting Ready** Please bring what you need to be comfortable sleeping on the floor in a variety of temperatures. Like many others, our building has variable temperatures, so we suggest dressing in layers for your stay. Please check the forecast as you decide what gear to bring for our outdoor wildlife tour early in the morning.

**Do Bring:** Pajamas, toothbrush, an extra layer, sleeping bag, pillow, and air mattress (twin size for one, queen size for two). Adults are encouraged to bring a flashlight, ear plugs, and sleeping mask. Stuffed animals are welcome.

**Do Not Bring:** Cots or raised beds, toy weapons, or pets.

**Bring or buy your dinner.** For dinner, we suggest you bring your favorite picnic or have food delivered by a local eatery. Our Snack Area has plenty of seating and there is a selection of beverages, snacks, and meal items available from our vending machines. Staff and guests have had good luck with ordering food from these places:

[Road Runner](#) delivery: 508-797-0314

[George's Pizza II](#) delivery: 508-799-4999

Please arrange for delivery by 6:15 pm so you'll be able to enjoy your dinner before your program begins at 7 pm. Night Journey staff will direct deliveries to the information desk on the Upper Level of the museum. Food and beverages are not allowed anywhere else in the museum during your stay.

**Directions** Use your favorite GPS or use this link for directions to the EcoTarium:

<http://www.ecotarium.org/visitor/directions.html>

**Arrival Information** All cars must stop at the gatehouse for instructions before proceeding onto museum grounds. **Check-in begins at 6:00 pm** for Night Journey guests. You will have plenty of time to check in, eat and get ready for the start of the program at 7:00 p.m. The group leader will meet with the Night Journey staff at your check-in location to confirm attendance numbers. Our **gates will close at 7:00 pm** when the program starts. **Guests who are running late will notify their group leader before 7 pm** of their new arrival time. This allows the group leader and Night Journey staff to plan accordingly. Please be sure that you have shared cell phone numbers among your group since the EcoTarium switchboard is only open 10 am – 5 pm.

## **During your overnight...**

**Sharing the Museum** We will accommodate **up to two groups** per night, with up to 120 total overnight guests. Your Night Journey's staff, programs, schedule, and sleeping areas are tailored according to your group's theme choices. This means you may see another group while you are in the planetarium show or exploring the museum, but your group activities are just for you!

**Program Schedule** Around 7 pm, when your group is all checked in, staff will review your schedule for the evening with your group and make sure everyone knows what to expect. Workshops, activities, and shows are scheduled until about 10:30 pm and will relate to your chosen theme for the night whenever possible. A Night Journey is an exciting way to experience what the EcoTarium is all about; however, since much of our time together is spent engaging in special themed programming, there is always more to explore. Therefore, every overnight guest will receive **a free admission pass** so that they may return another day and continue to enjoy our extensive exhibits, animals, and grounds at their leisure.

**Museum Shop** The Museum Shop offers a selection of gifts for all ages, interests, and budgets. During your overnight, time will be allotted to browse and purchase a memento of your visit.

**Food** Healthy snacks will be provided for your group around 8:30 pm. Snacks may include Nutri-Grain bars, fruit, animal crackers, and water. A continental breakfast is served at 6:30 am. Breakfast may include cereal, instant oatmeal, fruit, muffins, bagels, coffee, and juice. Concerned guests with dietary restrictions are encouraged to contact the overnight program coordinator in advance and may bring supplementary food items.

**Sleeping Arrangements** Sleeping areas will be among the exhibits on the museum floor unless otherwise requested by your group leader. For safety reasons, youth must sleep within sight of their guardians and a few lights will be left on at all times.

**Bedtime** Bedtime is between 10:30 and 11 pm, depending upon the activities and flow of the evening. Once programming has ended, group leaders will be responsible for dictating the bedtime behavior of their group. If sharing the museum with another group, quiet hours begin at lights out.

**Morning Routine** Good morning greetings are at 6 am. Wake up, wash up, dress up, pack up and load up your car. Please bring your overnight gear to your car before eating breakfast, which will be available from 6:15 until 7 am in your group's designated eating area. At 7, staff will offer you an all-weather walking tour to see the animals in our outdoor exhibit areas. Programming ends at 8:00 am and guests are expected to depart the grounds by 8:15 am.

### **Please Be Aware that:**

- Children must be chaperoned at all times by an adult.
- The leader or parent/guardian agrees to assume all responsibility for any injury to persons attending the overnight.
- The leader or parent/guardian also agrees to accept all loss of property and responsibility for damage to the EcoTarium and its contents caused by anyone attending the overnight.
- Smoking and use of tobacco products is prohibited on our campus and there is no consumption of alcohol or use of non-prescription drugs on EcoTarium property.
- Guests should refrain from exiting the building without explicit staff permission during your stay except to retrieve personal items from a vehicle.

If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please contact our reservations office at 508-929-2703 or [reservations@ecotarium.org](mailto:reservations@ecotarium.org).