



Dear Group Chaperones,

On behalf of our entire team, I am excited to welcome your school or group to the EcoTarium, New England's Museum of Science and Nature. This letter contains information you need to know in preparation for your visit.

By purchasing a ticket to the EcoTarium, you agree to abide by all Museum policies and requirements for visitors.

**COVID Policy:** Your health and safety, as well as the health and safety of our staff and animals, is our priority. As you know, COVID-19 continues to spread in the community.

Masks are recommended indoors for all museum guests to reduce the risk of transmission while exploring the museum's fun, interactive exhibits. Face coverings are a critical public health tool for preventing the spread of COVID-19, flu and other viruses, and protecting the health and safety of all vulnerable guests, staff, and indoor resident-animals. For maximum protection, your mask should cover your nose and mouth at all times except when actively eating and drinking in designated areas. The EcoTarium provides complimentary, disposable masks at the Information Desk on the upper level and at each entrance to the Museum.

Masks are required to enter the Alden Planetarium. The Alden Planetarium can seat approximately 80 guests. Guests ages 2 and older are required to wear masks while inside the Planetarium. The EcoTarium offers masks at the entrance to the Planetarium for all guests.

Please encourage students, chaperones, and educators to bring a mask for their field trip. Masks will be available for those who forget, but supplies may be limited.

EcoTarium staff members clean the museum throughout the day. Hand Sanitizer is available in multiple locations on each floor of the museum for your use. Please wash your hands and use hand sanitizer during your visit.

**Protect Wildlife:** When outdoors, please remind children to keep a 6-foot distance from resident-wildlife, particularly the North American River Otters, Red Fox, and Mountain Lions. These larger animals

are susceptible to COVID-19 and we do not have a vaccine or treatment to ensure their safety. Enjoy visiting the animals, but please help us keep them healthy!

**Maintain Distance:** We encourage all groups to eat outside whenever weather permits. Picnic tables are located at Upper Sundial Plaza, Wild Cat Station, and in the Nature Explore Playground/Exhibit Area. There are grassy areas near the lower parking lot that children may enjoy. The indoor Snack Room on the middle level of the Museum has cafeteria-style seating available on a first come, first serve basis.

### Visitor Code of Conduct and Group Management Policies

Your visit to the Museum should be enjoyable, educational, and fun! To ensure all visitors have a safe and memorable experience, we expect everyone to be respectful of other visitors, staff and volunteers.

#### Please follow the instructions of staff at all times.

**Safety First:** Your health and safety, and the health and safety of our staff, volunteers and animals, is the EcoTarium's top priority. Weapons of any kind are not allowed on the property. If you see something that appears unsafe, please notify a staff member immediately.

**Pets:** The EcoTarium is a wildlife zoo regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits domestic animals anywhere on our property, including those left in vehicles. The only domestic animals allowed on the property are service animals.

**Smoking:** The EcoTarium is a smoke-free facility. Smoking of any kind including vaping (the use of electronic cigarettes) is not allowed on the grounds or inside any buildings.

**Respect for All:** The EcoTarium values diversity and is dedicated to providing a calm and respectful experience for everyone. The EcoTarium does not tolerate discrimination or any form of harassment. The EcoTarium prohibits harassment or discrimination based on ability, age, color, ethnicity, race, family or marital status, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy and related medical conditions, language, national origin, political affiliation, religion, socioeconomic status, veteran status, health status, and other dimensions of diversity.

**Cleanliness:** Please help us maintain a clean facility by picking up your trash and placing it in the trash or recycling bins.

**Group Management:** We want all children and adults to have a successful visit! If you are chaperoning a group of children who have had a long ride to get to the EcoTarium, we recommend planning to begin your visit outside in the playground area to allow children to release some of their energy before coming into the museum. Our exhibits are expensive and in some cases irreplaceable and should be treated with care. Graffiti can cause permanent damage to an exhibit. Please remind all children to treat the museum's objects and animals with respect.

Chaperones are expected to stay with their group at all times. Youth should remain in the direct line of sight of supervising adults. We ask that guests stay on designated walking paths and trails when you explore. Please do not walk on the train tracks, or climb on sculptures or objects, or go into restricted areas.

The EcoTarium's Explorer Express is a narrow gauge railroad that travels around the property on a one-mile journey. When walking or driving on the property, respect railroad crossing signs and directions. Please carefully supervise children when waiting at the train station.

**Fun:** Exhibits and programs at the EcoTarium change regularly. You may notice some exhibits and experiences have returned for a season, while others may be arriving soon. For regular updates on exhibits please visit the [indoor exploration](#) and [outdoor exploration](#) pages of our website.

Enhance your group's experience with these options:

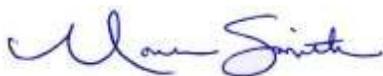
- [On-Site School and Group Programs](#) Pre K–8, \$8 per person. Minimum 20 participants.
- [Alden Planetarium](#): \$6 per person (group rate) for 10 or more people. The Alden Planetarium seats 80 guests. All guests ages 2 and older are required to wear a mask inside the planetarium. The EcoTarium can provide masks for all space travelers.
- [Explore Express Train \(seasonal\)](#): \$5 per person (group rate). This 12-minute ride offers a fun tour around the EcoTarium grounds. Chaperones must join groups on the train.

There are daily educational programs offered in the "Secrets of the Forest" room on the middle level of the museum at the top of the stairs that are included free with your admission. Museum educators lead these interactive discovery programs for all ages. Please visit the Secrets of the Forest room for more information on daily programming.

I hope you enjoy exploring this wonderful Museum and learning something new! Did you know that the EcoTarium is the second oldest Natural History Museum in the country? We take great pride in our historic collections and well-designed, award-winning exhibits.

Our team is excited to greet you and your group here at the EcoTarium. Please let us know how we can help you, or if you have any questions or concerns!

Sincerely,



Noreen Johnson Smith  
President and CEO