



Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park

School Group Information

Thank you for your interest in a school group tour to Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park. This packet contains important information to help you, your students and chaperones prepare for the visit. Please review it completely before your tour. We are looking forward to seeing you at the park!

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

All group visits must have a confirmed reservation. To make a reservation to visit the state park, please complete and submit the *Group Reservation Request Form* (located on the *Group Service* page) online or by fax or mail, or by calling the Group Tour Coordinator:

Lori Armstrong
137 Juliana Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
Phone: 304-420-4800
Fax: 304-420-4802

Submission of your reservation form does not guarantee you will receive your requested tour time due to additional tours that may already be scheduled. Your tour is not considered reserved until you receive a confirmation letter from the tour coordinator. Reservations should be made at least three weeks in advance. Groups without a scheduled reservation will not receive the group discount and may not be able to tour the park.

GROUP VISITING HOURS

Please visit the *Operating Hours* on the *Rates* page to determine our season schedule.

DIRECTIONS

Please visit the *Location/Directions* on the *Maps/Location* page for printable written directions and a map.

FEES FOR RESERVED SCHOOL GROUP VISITS

We offer a discount for all schools and youth groups (4-H, scouts, church youth groups, etc). For schools, the discount is offered to students and teachers. For youth groups, the discount is offered to members and leaders.

Museum:	\$1.00
Boat:	\$4.50
Mansion:	\$1.50
Wagon:	\$2.50

Any parents or siblings wishing to attend with the group must pay full price.

Museum:	\$4.00 parent	\$2.00 child 3-12
Boat:	\$8.00	\$7.00
Mansion:	\$4.00	\$2.00
Wagon:	\$5.00	\$5.00

One payment for the entire group is due upon arrival at the Museum Front Desk. Payment can be made with cash, check, or credit card. Please make checks payable to *Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park*. We will provide you with a receipt at the time of payment.

Groups may pay in advance by providing credit card information or mailing a check. If payment is received in advance, groups cannot get a refund if they bring less people than what payment was for. By paying in advance, all tickets and receipts will be at the boat waiting for the group upon their arrival.

GROUP ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

If touring the museum first, please plan to arrive at least 5 minutes before your scheduled time in order to:

- Register
- Pay admission fees & receive tickets/receipt
- Receive museum rules
- Organize students into smaller groups, if necessary

If you are not touring the museum but paying upon your arrival, please plan to arrive at the museum at least 15 minutes before your scheduled boat departure time in order to:

- Register
- Pay admission fees & receive tickets/receipt
- Drive to Civitan Park boat dock

BUSES – LOADING AND UNLOADING

Museum:

Buses may unload and reload passengers at the museum entrance on Juliana Street. This entrance is also wheelchair accessible.

Buses then may park at the end of 1st Street while the group is touring the museum.

Groups arriving by car or passenger van need to park in the paved parking lot adjacent to the museum in a space that has a number and the letter “M”.

Island:

Buses may unload and reload passengers in the large gravel lot located at the Civitan Park boat dock. They may remain parked their while the group is touring the island.

LATE ARRIVAL POLICY

Museum:

Groups arriving more than 15 minutes late are not guaranteed their scheduled tour.

Island:

The boat departs for the island at the top of every hour. The boat can wait up to 5 minutes for a group and will then depart for the island. If a group misses their boat departure, they must wait for the next scheduled boat departure *if space is available*.

Groups should arrive to the mansion and/or wagon ride at least 5 minutes prior to their scheduled tour time. Failure to arrive on time may result in forfeiture of your tour(s).

RESCHEDULING

To change or reschedule a group visit, please call the Group Tour Coordinator (304-420-4800) at least 48 hours in advance. Rescheduling is done as space and time permits.

CANCELLATION POLICY

To cancel a visit, please call the Group Tour Coordinator (304-420-4800) at least 48 hours in advance.

Should the park close for any reason, all attempts will be made to reschedule your tour.

ACCESSIBILITY

Museum:

The museum is accessible to people with mobility limitations. Please enter the museum along the Juliana Street entrance.

Island:

The sternwheeler, island grounds and first floor of the mansion are all accessible to people with mobility issues. The second floor of the mansion and the wagon rides are not accessible.

ON-SITE LUNCH OPTIONS

Gabberts Concession Stand will prepare box lunches for advance orders only. Options include:

School Box Lunch:

2 Hot Dogs, Chips, Cookie & Beverage

School: \$4.50 Parent: \$6.00

Cold Box Lunch:

Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Chips, Banana, Cookie & Beverage

\$6.50

Hot Box Lunch:

Choice of 2 Pieces of Fried Chicken OR Baked Ham, 2 Vegetables, Side, Roll, Banana & Beverage

\$8.50

Only one selection is permitted for the entire group.

The concession stand is also available for individual purchases. They offer hot dogs, sub sandwiches, nachos, pizza, soft pretzels, chips, beverages, candy, ice cream, etc.

For those groups bringing their own lunches, there is a brick shelter or large party tent available for rent for \$55.00 each. If you reserve either of these, a pink sign will be posted on that area. You may leave your coolers, backpacks, and other items there. If the shelter or tent is unreserved, these areas are available on a first come/first serve basis. The shelter attached to the concession stand is for those purchasing from the concession stand only.

PARK BEHAVIOR

General:

- No food, candy, gum or beverages are allowed in the state park buildings. This includes the museum, mansion, wagon ride, and gift shops.
- Guests may not wear backpacks or carry large bags into the museum, mansion or gift shops. If possible, students should leave their backpacks at school or on the bus.
- Photography is permitted, however the flash must be turned off (flash is allowed in the kitchen of the mansion only).
- Only 30 students with an attentive adult are allowed in the gift shop at a time. Once purchases are completed, please leave the gift shop area so that others may

- enter. An adult should assist younger children with their monetary transactions, making sure they have enough for their purchase plus tax. Students should have their money out and available when they reach the cash register. Purchases at the museum gift shop should be made after the museum tour. If your group is going to the island, there is a larger gift shop there with additional items.
- If staff feels that a child is disobeying the rules, they have the authority to pull the child out of the tour and have them wait until their group is finished.

Museum:

- **INSIDE VOICES ARE REQUIRED.** Be aware that other groups may be touring the museum at the same time. Please be mindful by using the appropriate tone of voice.
- Please do not run or engage in horseplay.
- Please do not lean over any exhibit barriers or the 2nd floor balcony.
- Please do not touch any artifacts/exhibits.
- Everyone is to use the stairs unless unable to do so.
- Please do not touch the television in the museum theater and please remain seated during the video.

Island:

- Please do not lean over any exhibit barriers or touch any artifacts.
- Please do not run or engage in horseplay in the mansion or around the wagon rides.
- Please be attentive and respectful to tour docents and wagon ride operators.
- Do not feed any wildlife on the park grounds. West Virginia law prohibits this in all state parks.
- The Ohio River shore surrounding Blennerhassett Island can be unsafe. Please do not play along the river banks and stay off the rocks. Do not allow anyone to throw rocks into the river.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- There is a 15 minute video presentation that can be viewed at the beginning of your museum tour.
- Tours go rain or shine. Please dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. Much of your time will be spent outdoors moving from site to site. In the event of dangerous weather conditions, you will be contacted about alternate arrangements.
- Caution everyone about wearing hair spray, perfume or aftershave; bees and yellow jackets will be attracted to the scent.
- First Aid supplies are available at the Museum Front Desk or at the Island Ticket Booth.
- For mansion and wagon ride tours, larger groups may need to be divided.
- Bicycles are not available for rent to school groups.

CHAPERONE REQUIREMENTS

The state park does not have a set minimum number required for chaperones. If a school feels they need additional chaperones, parents are able to attend (please see *Fees For Reserved School Group Visits* for pricing). Parents can either be reserved and paid for with the group, or can be unreserved and pay separately upon their arrival. While we welcome parent chaperones, we cannot guarantee that we will have space for additional unreserved adults. Parents paying separately are not counted in the group total and will be treated as general public. Therefore, unreserved parents may or may not be on the same boat and/or tours as their child. To minimize confusion, stress, and waiting in lines, we strongly urge schools to include parents with their group and make one payment for the entire group.

Teachers planning group visits are responsible for establishing expectations for their chaperones. We suggest you print the letter at the end of this section, along with the park behavior, and distribute it to all chaperones accompanying your group, including fellow teachers.

THANK YOU

Thank you for thinking of Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park and making the effort to bring your students to visit. The staff and volunteers are here to assist you in making your visit an enjoyable one. Please feel free to call on us if we can be of help. Have a wonderful visit!

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www.blennerhassettislandstatepark.com