

## WELCOME!

*At Discovery Theater, we've been providing educational fun for school and family groups for more than 50 years. We know our audiences come with a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and expectations, and we want to make sure everyone has the best visit possible.*

## WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR VISIT

### Before the Show:

A Discovery Theater staff member will welcome your group outside the theater and students will line up in the hallway. A lead teacher will check in at the box office and give a total head count. Groups are then sat in the order in which they arrive. Teachers are usually seated at the ends of the rows where their students sit, and chaperones on the risers behind them.

Before the show starts, a House Manager will go onstage to welcome you and review the theater rules. Some rules apply to every show, and some may be specific to your performance. The House Manager will let the audience know what to expect.

### After the Show:

To ensure the safest and most efficient traffic flow, the House Manager will dismiss the audience group by group. **Please** keep your students seated until you hear your group name called. To ensure our next performance begins on time, we ask groups to put on coats, etc. out in the hallway.

## WHAT TO GO OVER WITH YOUR STUDENTS BEFORE YOUR VISIT

### Theater Etiquette:

- Tell students they're going to a live performance with real actors/artists
- Encourage restroom use before the performance
- Food, beverages, and candy should be discarded before entering the theater
- Stay with your group and follow the House Manager's instructions about seating
- Respect those around you by not whispering or talking during the performance
- Participate during the show and respond to the performers if they ask the audience a question
- Stay seated unless you are asked to move by a performer or staff member
- Show appreciation by clapping. Applause shows the performers how much you enjoyed it!
- Have fun and learn something new!

**Remember:** When students know where they are going, why they are going, what they are going to learn about, and something about the subject, they gain a better appreciation for the performance. They will observe more closely, retain more information, and make connections to their school work.

## TEACHER CHECKLIST

### Things to Know:

- To contact us for any reason, please call 202-633-8700 or email [DTinfo@si.edu](mailto:DTinfo@si.edu)
- Know the location of your performance; this can be found on your ticket, or on our website
- **You do not need paper tickets to enter.** You are receiving one confirmation ticket with your show information and the total number of tickets written on it. You do not need the ticket to enter.
- The show will begin promptly at the published start time. Please plan to arrive 15-20 minutes before that. Latecomers will be sat at a convenient break in the show.
- There is NOT a space to have lunch in the Ripley Center. Lunch is available for purchase at many of the Smithsonian Museums and at the Castle Visitor's Center. Outside food is not permitted in any of the museums. Please plan to have lunch outside on the National Mall, on your bus, or back at school.
- Bag lunches and backpacks should be left on the bus or at school whenever possible. If this is not possible, children will be asked to leave their bags outside of the theater so they do not disrupt the performance.
- **In case of inclement weather:** Discovery Theater is closed ONLY if the Federal Government is closed. If you are unable to make your performance due to inclement weather (or for any other reason), please call us immediately at 202-633-8700. We will do our best to re-schedule you for another performance. A refund will only be given if Discovery Theater is closed.  
**Please note:** you must notify us via phone or email BEFORE your scheduled performance begins in order to exchange your tickets or receive a credit for a future performance.

### Things to Do:

- Let us know of any wheelchair or special seating requirements before your scheduled performance
- If someone in your group requires an ASL interpreter, please notify us at least two weeks in advance
- Call us if you need extra tickets for your group. Our shows often sell out and we may not be able to accommodate extra people on a show day.
- Check our website for a program or learning guide to accompany your performance. We also have copies of these at the box office window.
- Go over the theater etiquette with your students, which can be found on the reverse side



Smithsonian Institution

For a list of other activities at the Smithsonian, please visit [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu) and view the calendar.

*Thank you for giving your students this valuable, cultural experience at the Smithsonian.  
We hope you enjoy your time with us and come back often!*

Discovery Theater • P.O. Box 23293, Washington, DC • [www.discoverytheater.org](http://www.discoverytheater.org)

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