

Houston/Galveston 2019 Parent Chaperones

Thank you again for volunteering for this great learning adventure. Attached are the forms that we need from each of you as well as information from the Houston Museum of Natural History and Galveston Island State Park.

Thank you for being willing to carpool and follow the buses. (It will be a lot calmer drive for you!) With the number of students and teachers going we completely fill each bus.

Students will be dropped off with their luggage in the car line (7:15 -7: 35 am). Students should not ride the bus because of all that they will be carrying. Fifth grade parents will be directed to drive through the outside car lane (field side). **We are asking the chaperones to be there (arrive by 7:10) to help the students get out of the cars and collect their luggage. We do not want the parents that are dropping students off to get out of the cars.** This causes a huge traffic backup.

There will be areas marked to organize the luggage (BUS 1 and BUS 2). This will make it easier to load the buses. We will send a note to all parents regarding the morning drop-off process for that day. A chaperone will help students cross the street at the supervised crossing areas and enter school. The charter buses will arrive at 7:50. We need the chaperones to load the luggage, snack containers and ice chests under the buses. We will bring the students out at 8:15. Then we are off by 8:30. Please plan on following the buses (just in case we need you on the way).

When you arrive at the museum, you will need to park your car in the parking garage as directed in the attached Museum Chaperone Guide. You will be able to leave your cars in the garage until we leave the next morning. The buses will return to the museum at 5:00pm for students to collect their luggage for the overnight stay. Please put your luggage under the bus, so we all can unload in the same area. This way you can supervise your group while unloading. 100 students moving luggage... Hmmm...

When the buses arrive at the museum, the teachers will take the students to the park area across the street for lunch and a small break. After parking the cars, please meet your group at the park and join them for lunch. **Remember to bring a lunch and a drink.**

Once we have checked into the museum, you will guide your group through the exhibits and to the IMAX and Butterfly Center. We will give you the final schedule, your group list and the chaperone and staff phone list before we leave May 23th. Please read the Museum Chaperone Guide. We want the students to see and experience as many of the exhibits as possible.. **Please note that we will not be taking the students to the gift shop or McDonalds.** There is too much to see while we are there! **Students should not bring money on the trip.** We will be giving each chaperone a bag of snacks that they can distribute to their group mid-

afternoon. Food is not allowed in the exhibit area, so this must be eaten in the main entrance hall. Please remember no gum or candy and no visits to McDonalds.

The Cockrell Butterfly

You will have a ticket with a scheduled time to visit the center. We spent a long time studying insects this fall so this is an important area to spend time in. As you enter, there are some wonderful insect interactive exhibits. We want each student to experience those, as well as, the wall of live chrysalises. We saw 7 emerge last year! The students should spend time reading and interacting with the exhibits. It will probably be crowded, so they may have to pass by one and come back to it in a few minutes. After they completed most of them, they will enter the butterfly enclosure. To protect the wildlife and plants in the enclosure, the museum has important guidelines that we need you to gently reinforce with your group. Students should move slowly and spend sometime quietly observing the butterflies and their behaviors. A butterfly may land on a child, but they are not to touch it, just wait until it flies off.

The museum closes to the public at 5:00. At that time, we will be moving in for the night. There will be an orientation presented by the museum staff. Please stay with your group at that time, so you will know the museum expectations and the schedule of activities. We need every ones' attention so we know what to do and where to go. A pizza and salad dinner will be served at 6:00. Please supervise your group. **We expect safe, respectful behavior the entire trip.** Some students get overly enthusiastic and take much more than they should eat. Help monitor your group so they are making healthy choices. We don't want tummy aches in the middle of the night.

As the evening activities progress, we ask that you are with your group and help them stay engaged and focused. It is a long day and they will be tired. (so will the adults). Stay involved and engaged in the activity and give gentle encouragement. Student groups will rotate through 3 activities. One of those is to put their bedrolls down. We are sleeping in the Hall of the Americas. The spaces are usually large open areas. We always put the boys in one side and the girls on the other with adults mixed among them. Because of the size of the space, students are not allowed to use air mattresses. **Adult air mattresses can be no larger than twin size.** In addition it can get chilly in there, plan accordingly.

Our last activity for the night is a movie in the planetarium. We will be up later than a normal night school night. Immediately following the movie, we will need to quickly get ready for bed and lights out! Students will be expected to settle in and go to sleep. There should be no visiting. Lights out, still and quiet! We are up at 6:45!

The next morning we will leave by 8:00 to get to Galveston Island State Park by 9:30ish. Please help your group get changed into their beach clothes and shoes, packed up and make good breakfast choices. We need them to be responsible and leave every area we visit during this trip neat and clean. That will only happen with diligent supervision by the adults. It is amazing how many socks and other things we find left behind.

The buses will arrive about 7:45. We need to load quickly and leave for Galveston. Please supervise students while they collect and load all belongings on the bus.

All vehicles must check in at the Ranger Station when we arrive at Galveston Island State Park to get our park permits. Meet the buses there. Ms. Stryker will go in and get a permit for each of you to tape to your window. You will need to follow the bus with your group as we go from beach to bay. You may also need to rearrange cars for that brief time period so you are following your group. We will meet back at the picnic area by the beach at lunch.

Please pack closed-toed beach shoes and clothes that can get damp or wet for the Friday at Galveston. We will be actively involved at the beach and bay exploring the features of ecosystems and the organisms that survive there. The Galveston Island volunteers have asked that the chaperones model focused, engaged behavior and participate in what the group is doing. In addition, all parents need to be water monitors, watching the students closely as they are around the water. There will be outdoor shower areas where you can rinse off and closed-in changing areas.

After exploring the bay and the beach, you will need to supervise the students as they change into dry clothes for the bus ride home. Then guide them to the beachside picnic area to pick up their lunch. **Please make sure they select only the lunch that they have ordered. We will have lunch order lists available. Some students have special diets and will not have a lunch if theirs has been accidentally picked up by another person.** They should also pick up 2 water bottles from the ice chest on their buses. Students will eat their lunches on the bus on the way back to Austin.

After they have picked up their lunches and water, it is time to load the buses and head home. Please make sure your group has collected all their belongings and are back on the bus. We will meet you back at BCE.

When we arrive, we need lots of helpers. We will keep the students on the buses until they have collected all their belongings and cleaned up all trash. We need parents to unload the luggage and other items from under the bus. We need other parents to drain the ice chests and take them into the school. Each homeroom will need a parent that will check students out when their parents arrive. Together we will get this done quickly.

We know this is a lot of information, but hope that it will help you in your role as an amazing fifth grade chaperone!

Thank you again for sharing your time with us,
The Fifth Grade Team

So you can plan for carpooling here are the parents joining us on the trip. We have 14 chaperones leading students and 3 more parents joining their child's group for support.

Parents Chaperones:

Chaperones: 14 groups

1. Nancy Grimm (Annie)
2. Cynthia Coulson (William)
3. Joanna Tsao (Lauren)
4. Elizabeth McNamara (Cierra)
5. Ginger Nelson (Ade)
6. Liping Zhu (Audrey)
7. Hana Rafaeli (Liat)
8. Ann Patton (Cate)
9. Chris Whipple (Noah)
10. Jason Howard (John)
11. Eric Neiderer (Margaret)
12. Raul Garcia (Oliver)
13. Mathew Nazareth (Luke)
14. David Dagger (Dani)

Join their child's group:

15. Jai Vijayan (Vivek)
16. Stephanie Peoples (Miller)
17. Theresa Peoples

Thursday, May 23

7:15 - 7:35	Parents drop students off with their lunches and luggage in the outside car lane at the back of the school. Students will proceed to morning assembly areas. More details will be sent prior to the trip.
7:35	Students in homerooms.
8:00	Buses arrive. Students load luggage and board bus.
8:30	Buses depart for the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Chaperones follow.
11:30	Buses arrive at the museum. Students unload and cross over to the park for a picnic lunch and play time.
12:30 - 5:00	Enter the Museum. Students groups will go with their chaperones to explore the permanent exhibits. There will be assigned times to watch the IMax movie and visit the Butterfly Center.
5:00	Museum closes. Buses arrive and students unload luggage.
6:00	Pizza and salad dinner at museum. (Cheese and Pepperoni pizza, salad, fruit)
7:00	Begin evening activities including a scavenger hunt and planetarium movie. An evening snack will be provided: a cookie, water and fruit snack. (The museum has been notified about allergies. The cookies will be nut-free.)
9:45	Bedtime!

Friday, May 24th

6:30	Wake-up call, prepare for the day and pack up.
7:00 - 8:00	Breakfast; Croissants, bagels, muffins (blueberry and chocolate chip), powdered donuts, jelly and cream cheese, Go-Gurt, bananas, oranges, apples, apple juice, orange juice and water. (Muffins will be placed in a separate area to avoid allergies.)
8:00 - 9:30	Travel to Galveston Island State Park.
9:30 - 10:00	Buses and cars arrive at GISP in parking lot to the left of the Headquarters building on the beach side of Galveston Island. Pick up parking permits.
10 - 11:15	Bus I explores the beach. Bus II explores the marsh.
11:15 - 11:30	Groups switch locations - snack provided
11:30 - 12:45	Bus II Beach/Bus I Bay Exploration
12:45 - 1:10	Restroom break and clean-up. Buses return to the beach picnic area. Lunches are distributed.
1:10	Buses depart for Austin.
About 5:30	Arrive back at BCE.

Note: We will notify room parents if there are any delays so they can let parents know.

Academic and Behavioral Expectations

This is a great learning experience. It is an academic trip tied to educational objectives. While we hope everyone has lots of fun, our goal is to have great science experiences both inside the museum and out-in-the-environment at the bay and the beach. Each experience has been carefully selected for its relevance to our science curriculum. Each student will be expected to participate fully and appropriately in the activities. In addition, they will be expected to respect each facility and location that we are visiting. Teachers will be evaluating how well students participate.

This is a school field trip and all the rules which apply at school will apply on this trip. **The students are reminded to respect themselves, respect others, and respect the property and the environment around them.** Each student will be in a group with an adult chaperone. **Students are required to stay within voice range of their assigned adult.** This means that the adult should be able to get the child's attention and speak without raising his or her voice. The chaperone is to stay within a visual range of their child's homeroom teacher, when possible. The teachers will be supervising. The teacher has the ultimate responsibility and authority. **The students are to stay with their chaperones at all times; they are not to leave their group.**

Should discipline become necessary, these are the steps we will follow:

FIRST – Warning from the chaperone

SECOND – Warning from the child's teacher and the parents will be notified

THIRD – The principal will be notified and the student will be escorted by the teacher during the next activities.

FOURTH – Parents will be called and asked to pick up the child. The student will not be allowed to participate in any more activities during the trip.

As a chaperone, your duty is:

1. To keep our students safe and focused
2. To stay in sight of the teacher when appropriate
3. To use this opportunity for small group learning
4. To set a friendly, yet firm tone as an authority figure
5. To remember that whatever you allow your group to do, 40 other students will want to do
6. To supervise respectful museum behavior at both the Natural History Museum and the Aquarium
7. To supervise appropriate behavior and appropriate food choices and amounts at the museum
8. To supervise and get the students settled in at night
9. To treat all students fairly and not give special privileges

The facilities and beach volunteer groups have asked that chaperones and teachers stay actively involved with their student groups and do not use cell phones or text while chaperoning the students, unless there is an emergency. This is a distraction from our responsibility to supervise the students. In addition, they ask that the adults make sure students keep their shoes on and clean up and conserve the areas that they are visiting. Leave no evidence of our visit except great memories!

Houston/Galveston 2019 Behavior Expectations

Be responsible... Be respectful... Be Safe...

Be where you are supposed to be. Do what you are supposed to do.

Be an engaged learner!

BUS

- Voice level should be low so it does not distract the driver.
- Listen to all directions.
- Stay in your seat especially when the bus is in motion.
- One at a time in the restroom. Do not stand in line waiting.
- Keep your area clean. **No gum or candy. No electronics!**

TRANSITIONS

- To ensure the safety of everyone, students are expected to stay with the assigned chaperones at all times.
- Walk and pay attention to where you are going.

MUSEUM ETIQUETTE

To ensure that all of the visitors have an optimal experience, and out of respect for the collections and the safety of others, the museum asks that all guests adhere to the following guidelines:

- Keep your hands to yourself and keep a safe distance from objects, walls, cases, and photographs. The oils, salts, and acids in our sweat can damage works of art and artifacts.
- Be respectful of other visitors to the Museum by using a quiet voice when walking through the halls.
- Cell phones must be turned off or silenced while in the halls.
- **Food, drinks, and chewing gum are not allowed in the halls.**
- Students are not permitted to run, jump, kick, or touch walls, cases, or artifacts. Teachers and chaperones are responsible for the behavior of their students during their visit to the Museum. We thank you in advance for ensuring that our Museum remains in good condition for all visitors to enjoy. Please note that if these guidelines are not followed, you may be asked to leave the Museum.

BEACH AND BAY

- Be respectful to our guides, parents, property, plants and animals.
- Stay with the group and focused on the task you are asked to do.
- Be helpful.
- Listen to all directions and follow them.
- This is an outdoor classroom. We expect engaged learners.

Houston Museum/Galveston Packing List

Wear comfortable, **closed-toed shoes (required)**. We will be walking a lot!
Remember students must be able to carry all that they pack! Pack light.

We will be eating dinner Wednesday evening at about 6:00, so remember to eat breakfast and bring a nutritious sack lunch and drink for when we arrive! Please remember lunches need to be nut-free.

We will provide a light snack for chaperones to distribute to their group mid-afternoon.

FANNY PACK OR STRINGBAG:

- *water bottle
- *lip balm
- *small anti-bacterial hand wash
- *2 mechanical pencil

BACKPACK:

- ***refillable water bottle**
- *book to read
- *travel games or puzzle books – **non-electronic**
- *sketch pad
- *pencils
- ******dry clothes and shoes for bus trip home – the shoes can be the ones they wore on Wednesday**
- ******bath towel**
- ******plastic trash bag for wet beach clothes, shoes and towel**
- *jacket/sweatshirt – the bus can get cold
- *sun screen for Galveston

DUFFLE BAG OR SMALL ROLLING SUITCASE:

- *sleeping bag or bed roll – **Adult chaperones may bring a twin air mattress!**
- *pillow
- *pajamas **OR** shorts and T-shirt to sleep in
- *shorts and t-shirt for the beach (girls may wear their swimsuit under the shorts and t-shirt) to put on Thursday morning.
- *toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- *hand towel and wash cloth in a plastic Ziploc bag
- ***completely closed shoes (no Crocs or Keens) that can go into the water and mud – closed in water shoes will be fine if they will stay on in the mud.**

OPTIONAL ITEMS: - **Students should not bring phones or electronics.**

- *camera (disposable-please write name on it)
- *sunglasses for beach
- *hat or visor for beach
- *cards/travel games – to be used and left on the bus

PLEASE NOTE: **Please mark any items with your child's name.**

THANK YOU FOR NOT BRINGING: candy, gum, money, technology or any valuable jewelry/clothing

Release and Consent

Course: Overnight on _____ (date)

The Houston Museum of Natural Science ("HMNS") is offering the course(s) above (the "Course"). Although HMNS hopes that no student is ever injured or hurt, injuries are a possibility of participation in the Course. The risk of injuries is a risk that the students and their legal guardians voluntarily agree to assume in exchange for the privilege of registering for and participating in the Course. The students and their guardians understand and agree that this risk is not a risk that HMNS assumes and that HMNS is not responsible for any injuries to the students. Accordingly, _____ (the "guardian"), the legal guardian of N/A (the "student") voluntarily releases, discharges, and waives the right to sue HMNS and its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, agents and all persons acting by, through under or in concert with HMNS (collectively, the "Released Parties") for any and all losses, demands, claims, suits, causes of action, liability, costs, expenses, and judgments whether arising in equity, at common law, or by statute, under the law of contracts, torts, or property, for personal injury (including without limitation emotional distress), arising in favor of the guardian, the student, or anyone claiming through us based upon, in connection with, relating to or arising out of, directly or indirectly, the student's participation in the Course (collectively, "Claims") EVEN IF ANY SUCH CLAIMS ARE DUE TO THE RELEASED PARTIES' OWN NEGLIGENCE, STRICT LIABILITY WITHOUT REGARD TO FAULT, VIOLATION OF STATUTE, OR OTHER FAULT, INCLUDING ANY NEGLIGENT ACT, OMISSION, OR INTENTIONAL ACT INTENDED TO PROMOTE MY CHILD'S SAFETY OR WELL-BEING. The guardian and student hereby give their permission to the Released Parties to obtain emergency medical treatment for the student if any Released Party deems in its discretion that such emergency medical treatment is necessary. The student and the guardian acknowledge and agree that any photos, videos, pictorial images, voice recordings, or quotations including those of student taken or created by any Released Party (including without limitation any taken by any photographer or videographer paid by or volunteering for any Released Party) during or relating to the Course are the sole property of HMNS and may be used in future publications, webpages, promotions, advertisements and exhibits of HMNS (or any other person authorized to use such images by HMNS) without the need of any additional permission from or consideration to the student or guardian. I release and waive for myself, the student, and anyone claiming through us all claims based on the right of privacy, right of publicity, moral rights, or any other intellectual property rights related to the rights granted by me to HMNS.

Parent/ Guardian (Printed Name) _____ Date _____

Signature _____

