Pre-Tour Packet for The National Music Museum

National Music Museum
University of South Dakota Campus
Vermillion, South Dakota
www.NMMusd.org

Welcome to the wonderful world of musical instruments! We would love to host your group for a field trip here at the National Music Museum. We have a variety of tour options and interactive activities to provide a tailored experience for your group. School tours are offered free of charge and are available to be scheduled during our open hours Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00am-4:00pm.

We ask that you book your tour as far in advance as possible to guarantee your preferred dates. April, May, and November are our busiest tour months, so additional time is recommended if you would like to come during those months.

To schedule a tour at the NMM, fill out a tour request form on our website at nmmusd.org/visit-us/tours-group-visits. You will receive an email from us to confirm your tour dates as well as any activities or accommodations that your group may need. Additional activities and concerts are also free to our school groups.

We have one reserved parking space in front of the museum along Clark Street where buses can park. If you brought your group in multiple smaller vehicles, we have two spots reserved for NMM visitors in the lot to the East of our building that you can use. If these are already full, you are welcome to park along Clark Street.

Before your arrival, it may be helpful to go over museum rules:

- No running or horseplay
- No touching the instruments
- No food or drink in the galleries (not even water bottles)
- No backpacks in the galleries
- Pictures are welcome, as long as there is no flash
- Stay with the group
- Ask questions by raising your hand and wait to be called on

We ask that each group has at least one chaperone per 15 students.

We aim to have our tour groups be no more than 15-20 students per guide. We can accommodate up to 60 students, for a total of four tour groups. This can be subject to change, depending on other events on the same day as your tour.

If your group is larger than 60, there are other attractions in town that you can add to your visit so that you can divide the group across sites to a manageable number of students. Some possible stops include the WH Over Museum, the University Art Galleries, or the Dakota Dome.

Upon arrival, students will be given the opportunity to put water bottles or bags away and to stop at the restrooms and water fountains. Large groups may be taken into the performance hall for a group welcome before being divided into smaller groups for the tour.

Our typical tour lasts one hour, including the introduction. We can accommodate requests to shorten or lengthen the tour, depending on your group's needs; however, shorter tours will not have time to explore each of our galleries.

A National Music Museum gallery tour gives students a cross-curricular experience as they learn about musical instruments and how their history intersects with science, history, world cultures, religion, and more!

A one-hour tour supports interdisciplinary learning across all grade levels through:

- Analysis of artifacts as primary sources
- Exploration of world cultures and religions through music
- Connections to major global and U.S. historical events
- Understanding of sound, pitch, and acoustics
- Application of engineering design principles in instrument construction
- Development of critical thinking and discussion skills

If you would like detailed information about which standards our tours cover, please reference our standards packets available on our website. We are able to tailor tours based on the subject matter you would most like to emphasize with your visit!

In addition to your tour, time permitting, we have two additional educational experiences. You are welcome to choose one or both experiences depending on your group's interests and time constraints. These experiences can be tailored to suit most age groups and provide engaging multi-modal learning opportunities for the students. If you have a large group but are interested in participating in these hands on activities, we can offer them in rotation, provided your group has time.

- Our Gamelan experience introduces learners to a musical tradition that developed separately from Western musical fundamentals. Learners get to experience Indonesian music and culture through an interactive playing session which connects them with key concepts such as meter, rhythm, musical structure, and tuning. These sessions work best in groups of 15 or less and can last between a half hour and forty-five minutes.

- Our organ experience connects learners with the ancient tradition of organ playing. In a workshop that integrates STEM concepts, learners investigate the form and function of pipe organs by building the king of instruments together! The result is a fully-functional pipe organ, which learners can play and explore. These sessions work best in groups of 20 or less and last around forty-five minutes.

Depending on the date of your visit, there may be an NMMLive! Concert, which ordinarily happen on Fridays at noon during the school year. Many of these concerts feature performances on some of our instruments and can be a great addition to your visit!

If your group needs more accommodations, we are happy to help! The more we know in advance about your group's needs, the more we are able to do.

Please reach out and let us know if there is anything else we can do to make your visit the best it can be.