



H I C K O R Y M U S E U M O F A R T

The Educational department at the Hickory Museum of Art (HMA) provides special opportunities for students and teachers to enrich knowledge, understanding and appreciation of art and the artistic process through self-directed and informal learning as well as formal programs (demonstrations, art classes workshops and special projects).

School tours of traveling exhibitions and permanent collections complement classroom learning. Art educators and trained volunteers (docents) employ students in a variety of teaching strategies that engage and motivate them to become active participants in their own learning experience. A variety of the NC Standard Course of Study objectives are met for most age groups.

Museum tours are led by docents who devote many hours of study and preparation toward making your visit an enjoyable learning experience.

Tours last approximately 1 ½ hours and include a hands-on art experience for students. Cost: \$2 per student. Tour only with no activity is \$1 per student.

The Hickory Museum of Art welcomes groups who wish to visit. For the best museum experience, it is important for students as well as group leaders and chaperones to know what to expect and what is expected of them. **Please review School Tour Guidelines with students and chaperones prior to arriving at the Museum.**

SCHOOL TOUR GUIDELINES

Getting Ready for a Visit to the Museum

Preparing for the Visit

HMA Education department provides teacher resource information prior to your visit. The current interactive exhibit *Torn from Home: My Life as a Refugee* has a Teacher Resource Manual online and it is available for download at www.hickoryart.org. The manual includes recommended readings, pre and post visit lesson plans and activities for grades 3rd through 8th.

Name Tags a Must

Please have your students wear name tags so docents can call each student by name.

Arriving at the Museum

Arrive on Time for an Enjoyable Educational Visit

When planning your trip, please allow extra time for unseen traffic and unloading buses before your tour begins. Late arrivals will cut down on the time your group is able to tour the Museum and the exhibits.

Leave Backpacks and Other Items on the Bus

Please have students leave all backpacks, water bottles, purses, bags, cell phones, pens, markers and other valuables on the bus when visiting the Museum. The current exhibit, *Torn from Home: My Life as a Refugee*, is interactive and requires that visitors stand in enclosed areas. The more room each person has, the more enjoyable the experience will be.

Please Visit Restrooms Before or After the Tour

The Role of Group Leaders and Chaperones

Chaperones are an important part of assuring that students have an enjoyable and educational experience. Group leaders and chaperones should review all museum guidelines prior to the visit. Teachers and adult chaperones are responsible for maintaining discipline.

Discovering Connections

Take an active role to encourage student enthusiasm and participation. If the tour is self-guided, encourage students to explore the exhibits by looking carefully at the art, sculptures and artifacts. Help them to read signs and labels in the exhibit areas, ask questions and, when appropriate, interact with the exhibit. **Work with the docents to help make the quality of the students' experiences a shared priority.**

Be Responsible for your Group

We have guidelines for numbers of chaperones required, depending on the age of student groups. More adults are always welcome and there is no charge for teachers or chaperones.

- Grades pre-K through 1 one chaperone for every 4 students
- Grades 2 through 6 one chaperone for every 6 students
- Grades 7 through 12 one chaperone for every 8 - 10

Chaperones Must Stay with Students at all Times

It is vital that chaperones know who is in their groups so that they can keep the groups together. Please accompany your group in the exhibit at all times and do not wander off into other areas. Chaperones are responsible for making sure students adhere to Museum guidelines as well as maintain an appropriate level of behavior and conduct.

General Museum Manners

Walk. Do not run. Going too fast might cause you to trip and fall. You also might miss seeing something important!

Stay together. View and discuss the exhibit as a “family group” when appropriate.

Practice your museum voice. The museum is for everyone so it’s important not to talk too loudly, but you don’t have to whisper!

No eating, drinking or chewing gum.