



Guidelines for Your Visit

Please plan to arrive 30 minutes ahead of your scheduled tour time. This will give you time to divide your students into groups for their tour and provide the opportunity for students to use the public restrooms at the Visitors Center since there are no facilities in Fallingwater.

- **Have students travel lightly!** We cannot accommodate book bags or large parcels inside Fallingwater.
- **We are a carry-in/carry-out facility.** We do not have public trash receptacles; when you arrive, remind students to leave their trash on the bus. It's best to bring along a few plastic garbage bags to fill and take back home with you.
- **It is a 1/4 mile walk to Fallingwater from the Visitors Center.** During the tour, you climb over 100 steps. If you have any students with mobility concerns or special needs, please discuss this with Amy Kifer, School Programs Coordinator, ahead of time so we can help with logistics.
- **Be prepared for the weather!** Some of our activities and a portion of the house tours are outside, rain or shine. If it's cold outside, expect it to be colder here. Remind your students to wear weather-appropriate clothing and comfortable walking shoes.
- **Leave your own umbrellas on the bus.** Much of the damage to the woodwork in Fallingwater has come from rainwater dripped from visitors' clothing and umbrellas. On rainy days, we will issue you umbrellas to use on your walk to and from Fallingwater.
- **Like all museums, we do not permit visitors to carry food or drink in the historic house.**
- **Photography is not permitted at any time during the tour, unless you have booked an In-Depth tour.** We encourage quick sketching, as long as students can keep up with the pace of the tour.
- **Let your tour guide know what the class has been studying, and on what topics you would like the guide to focus.** Our guides love questions! Encourage your students to ask some.
- **Encourage the students to respect the landscape as much as the house.** Remind them to stay on paths at all times.

Guidelines for Chaperones

We rely on chaperones to help make your students' Fallingwater visit a safe and pleasant one. Thank you for volunteering to help! Please read the following guidelines carefully before your tour:

- Identify yourself to the tour guide before the tour starts.
- Please remember that the tour is for the students and you are here to help them enjoy it.
- Don't answer questions that are intended for students. If a student doesn't know the answer, feel free to give them hints.
- A good chaperone needs to remind the student of museum manners and follow them, too.
- Keep students together at all times. It is the responsibility of the chaperone not only to stay with the group, but also to keep the students together.
- Be ready to follow the tour guide's direct instructions, when given.

- Keep an accurate count of students in the group.
- Help keep the student group orderly.
- We love questions! However, please allow the tour guide to interact with the students first before asking your questions.

Guidelines for Teachers and Group Leaders

When you call, you will be asked how many students you are bringing, how long your group will stay, how many facilitators you will bring, the specific educational focus of your group, whether you have any special requirements for your students, etc. We will discuss with you how we can enhance your educational goals within your available time. We urge you to consider extending the learning experience by using our pre- and post-visit classroom resources.

- Please call the day before your visit to verify the number of students you will be bringing.
- Plan to provide at least 1 adult for every 13 students.
- Hold a pre-trip meeting with the other adults to share management strategies and any trip guides or assignment sheets before the trip.
- Adults must stay with their group at all times. Chaperones will circulate throughout the site with their assigned groups.
- Make sure everyone knows the time schedule; including where and when to gather for departure from Fallingwater.
- If possible, we appreciate large and easily readable nametags so we can make students feel welcome.
- Encourage students to think and work together in their small groups.
- Encourage students to talk softly about what they are experiencing.
- Supervise your group. Teachers and group leaders are responsible for group's behavior and for keeping students together. Discipline problems are rare, but we will contact the group leader should any occur.
- Try to build in opportunities for a constructive release of energy in physical movement and opportunities to rest and reflect.

Promote "museum manners" with your students

Remind students that Fallingwater and its landscape must be respected so that visitors can enjoy them today and in the future. To ensure a pleasant experience to the Fallingwater for your group and other visitors, please read and discuss the following rules to your students before your visit. Even the youngest children will act responsibly if they understand that the Museum and its collections belong to every visitor.

Simple Rules to Promote Good Museum Manners

- Touch only with your eyes, unless invited to go "hands on" during our interactive programs.
- Stay with your group.
- Walk throughout the site. Do not run and slide on the pebble driveway.
- Use inside voices in all areas of Fallingwater, even outside, in order not to disturb other visitors. A Fallingwater visit can be very exciting; just remember to be courteous.
- Do not use any part of Fallingwater as a hard surface for writing activities.
- Refreshments are not allowed in the Museum.

Relax and have a good time! Ask questions, make observations, and involve yourself in the tour. Fallingwater is so diverse, there is sure to be something for everyone.

Contact Information

Amy Kifer
 School Programs Coordinator
akifer@paconserve.org
 (724) 329-7829