



Preparing for your Ranger-led Field Trip

Before Your Visit

Students:

- Review behavioral expectations with students
- Remind parents to prepare their children with adequate clothing
- Introduce Devils Tower to your students—use your own lessons or the education resources found on our website to teach your students about the park before your visit
- Nametags: create prior to trip for all students and adults; use masking tape and a permanent marker (stickers or other nametags will fall off)

Chaperones:

- Field trips require minimum 1 adult per 10 students; you may bring a maximum of 1 adult per 5 students (extra adults are not permitted on the program)
- Review behavioral expectations with adults (they are responsible role models)

What to Bring:

- One fee waiver per vehicle
- All participants in long pants and closed-toed shoes
- Dress appropriate for the weather (raincoats, jackets, hats, gloves, etc. may be necessary)
- One liter of water per person (see below for notes on water)
- Bag/Sack lunches (labeled and packed for easy transport)
- Necessary medications

What Not to Bring (applies to students only):

- Electronics (smartphones, cameras, tablets, etc.)
- Money (visiting the bookstore is not included in your trip)
- Extra gear (back packs, binoculars, notebooks, etc.)

Carrying Water on Your Hike

Carrying water bottles can be a burden for many students. They will be more focused without items in their hands. At most, you will be away from the bus for two hours. Have students bring water on the bus for easy access. Encourage students to hydrate before the trip (at school and on the bus ride to the park), and after the program. Generally, **water bottles can stay on the bus.**

On hot days (over 80°), students may bring a water bottle on their hike to stay hydrated. Again, proper hydration before and after their trip will prevent dehydration more than carrying water with them during the hike.

Arriving to the Park:

- **At the entrance station:** Present your fee waiver(s) to the ranger on duty.
- **Where to go:** If meeting at the Visitor Center, proceed ~3 miles up the park road; a ranger will greet you at the stop sign and hop on the bus to direct the bus driver.
If meeting at the Amphitheater/Picnic Area, proceed ~1 mile to the Administration building; turn left and follow the road left to the picnic area where you will see the ranger.
- **Restrooms:** Chaperones should disembark first, and assist by moving students through the restrooms as fast as possible. **At the Visitor Center:** there are restrooms behind the building (where you will unload) and next to the Ranger Office (50 yards to the right). Half of your group should go to each restroom. **At the Picnic Area:** only one restroom is available.
- **Introduction:** As students finish at the restrooms, extra chaperones can guide them to the center of the parking area for a formal introduction by the ranger.
- **Bus parking:** Parking is very limited at the monument. Most days the bus may park in the RV parking on the exit lane at the top of the hill. Some days the bus must return to the base of the hill to long vehicle parking (near the picnic area).

During Your Visit:

- Teachers and chaperones are expected to help enforce park rules
- Rangers rely on teachers and chaperones for behavior management
- Keep an eye on time—especially if you are leading a portion of a hike
- Communicate with the ranger any logistical or safety concerns

Student Behavior Guidelines:

- **Respect wildlife:** we are visiting their home; do not feed, approach or harass wildlife
- **Respect plants:** leave plants where you find them; do not pick grass, flowers, tree bark, etc.
- **Respect other visitors:** students are representing their school and teachers; stay to the right while walking the trail and keep your voices low; classroom rules are in effect
- **Respect the park:** all items in the park are protected; removing rocks, pine cones, artifacts or anything from the park is prohibited; keep your feet on the trail
- **Respect each other:** listen while others are talking, keep your hands to yourself

Lunches:

For groups eating lunch as part of their program, please use the following guidelines:

- Gather and pack all lunches in boxes for easy distribution
- All lunches should have the student's name
- Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves (adults should direct, not clean)
- Lunch is strictly limited to 30 minutes
- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!